Domestic Girlfriend

20

KEI SASUGA

DOMEX GIRL

Domestic Girlfriend

20

DOME
GIRL

KEI SASUGA

DOME GIRL

20

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CHAPTER 185: SACRIFICE

GRT

CH

GR

AB

FWUMP

WHUD

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

STAY AWAY FROM HINA-NEE,

YOU PIECE OF SHIT!

...KU-

NAT...

...SUO...

NA-

KYAAA

IS HE SICK? DO YOU NEED HELP?

WHAT'S WRONG ?!

日朝生命保険杉並第二ビル

ミカドナスホー

WHAT WAS THAT SCREAM?

SOME-BODY CALL AN AMBU-LANCE!

AMBU-LANCE!

EEK!

I-IS THAT A KNIFE ?!

HEY, I THINK SOME-ONE COL-LAPSED OVER THERE.

OH, GOD.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

NATSUO-KUN...!

AHH ...

IT JUST WON'T STOP...!

THE BLOOD ...

HE'S UNRESPON-SIVE.

SPO2 LEVELS DOWN TO 84.

GET HIM ON OXYGEN!

カリラ RATL

HINA!

HOW'S NATSUO ?!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?!

HINA ...

I WAS AMBUSHED.

NATSUO-KUN'S IN THE ICU RIGHT NOW.

HE'S STILL UNCON-SCIOUS.

HE LOST A LOT OF BLOOD ...

... JUST FINE.

I DIDN'T GET HURT AT ALL.

I'M...

IT WAS QUIET FOR A WHOLE WEEK AFTER I SPOKE TO THE POLICE,

SO I THOUGHT EVERY-THING WAS FINE.

I NEVER IMAG-INED...

...TANABE-SAN WOULD BE ANGRY ENOUGH TO STAB ME.

HE HAD THIS CRAZED LOOK IN HIS EYES.

I WAS ON MY WAY TO MEET UP WITH NATSUO-KUN TO TREAT HIM TO RAMEN.

I TOLD NATSUO TO STAY AWAY, BUT...

THIS WAY, PLEASE. I'LL EXPLAIN HIS CONDITION.

OH. ALL RIGHT ...

BUT ...

ARE YOU FUJII-SAN'S PARENTS?

HINA-NEE...

...

UUH...

HNH...

AHH...

GRAB

I DIDN'T MEAN...

...TO DRAG NATSUO-KUN INTO THIS.

I'M SORRY, RUI.

I'M SO SOR-RY.

I'M SORRY.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS HAPPENED...

I'M REALLY, REALLY SORRY!

I'M THE ONE...

...WHO SHOULD'VE BEEN STABBED!

WE'VE SUTURED THE WOUND.

LUCKILY, THE KNIFE BARELY MISSED THE AORTA, BUT HIS INTESTINES WERE DAMAGED.

HE'S LOST AN EXCESSIVE AMOUNT OF BLOOD.

IF HE DOESN'T REGAIN CONSCIOUS-NESS SOON...

ピッ BEEP

ピッ BEEP

ピッ BEEP

ピッ BEEP

66
97
19
118/75 (95)

...HIS LIFE MAY BE IN DANGER.

GOOD IDEA...

WHY DON'T WE HEAD BACK HOME FOR NOW?

OH, YEAH.

WE SHOULD PROBABLY GET SOME THINGS READY IF WE'RE GOING TO SPEND THE NIGHT.

KNOCK KNOCK コンコン

EXCUSE ME, FUJII-SAN. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO TONIGHT?

WILL YOU BE STAY-ING?

OH...

YES.

YES. FOR NOW, ANYWAY.

I SEE.

DID THE POLICE FINALLY LET YOU GO?

YOU SHOULD COME WITH US.

WE'LL BE BACK SOON.

WE'RE GOING BACK TO THE HOUSE TO GET READY.

AH... HINA-CHAN.

PLEASE...

I...

...WANT TO BE BY HIS SIDE.

...SORRY.

IS IT OKAY IF I STAY?

HEY, SENSEI.

WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO HAVE YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE?

HUH?

IT WAS YOUR DREAM TO BECOME A TEACHER, RIGHT?

I WAS JUST WONDERING HOW YOU FELT, NOW THAT IT'S A REALITY.

MMM...

I DON'T REALLY FEEL A SENSE OF ACCOMPLISH-MENT, LIKE I'VE ACHIEVED A MAJOR GOAL OR ANYTHING.

HONESTLY, THIS IS MORE OF A BEGINNING, SO I FEEL LIKE I'M JUST FRANTICALLY TRYING TO GET BY.

SOMEONE WHO CAN MOVE PEOPLE WITH MY WRITING THE SAME WAY OTHERS HAVE MOVED ME...

...I GUESS.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, FUJII-KUN? WHAT KIND OF AUTHOR DO YOU WANT TO BE?

WHAT KIND?

HMM.

WHAT'S UP? WORRIED ABOUT YOUR FUTURE?

WANT SOME CAREER ADVICE?

I'M NOT YOUR HOME-ROOM TEACHER, THOUGH.

NAH, THAT'S OKAY.

I WANT TO GET AS CLOSE TO THE WORKS THAT FILL ME WITH THAT KIND OF PASSION AS I CAN.

I THINK THAT'S WHY I KEEP WRITING.

...WHEN I GET HOME AFTER A ROUGH DAY AND DIVE BACK INTO A BOOK, AND I GET LOST IN IT AND FORGET EVERY-THING THAT WAS BOTHERING ME.

I THINK ABOUT TIMES LIKE...

OR WHEN I GRAB SOME STORY ON A WHIM AND END UP CONNECTING WITH IT SO DEEPLY I'M MOVED TO TEARS.

ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU HAVE SUCH A CLEAR GOAL IN MIND.

I'M SURE YOU CAN DO IT.

YOU THINK SO?

OR HOW ON THE DAY OF A NEW RELEASE, I GET SUPER EXCITED AND WORK HARD AT EVERYTHING I DO.

I WISH I WAS ALREADY OUT OF SCHOOL AND WORKING.

THEN I COULD'VE GIVEN YOU A BETTER RING.

HUH?

Y'KNOW, SOMETHING NICER.

MORE EXPEN-SIVE.

THE PRICE DOESN'T MATTER AS LONG AS YOU PUT YOUR FEELINGS IN IT, RIGHT?

THAT'S WHAT MAT-TERS.

OH, YOU!

IT'S FINE! DON'T FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE TO SHOW OFF!

わしゃ SKSH

WAGH!

YOU'RE TREATING ME LIKE A KID AGAIN!

SHOW OFF ...?

...I WANNA HURRY UP BECOME A MAN...

...WHO CAN BE THERE FOR YOU WHEN IT REALLY COUNTS, Y'KNOW?

I'M WORRIED, THOUGH.

I KEEP WONDERING IF YOU'RE HOLDING BACK...

...BECAUSE I'M YOUNGER AND UNRELIABLE.

THAT'S WHY...

DID YOU THINK YOU WOULDN'T CAUSE US ANY TROUBLE IF YOU KEPT YOUR MOUTH SHUT OR SOMETHING?

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW WE'D FEEL IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOU AND WE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT? HUH?!

IF THERE WAS AN EMERGENCY, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE?

S-S-S-SORRY.

HE MOSTLY ONLY CAME TO THE HOTEL, SO I THOUGHT I COULD SETTLE THINGS QUIETLY BY MYSELF AND MUMBLE MUMBLE...

THAT'S, UM...

NAG

NAG

SPEAK UP. I CAN'T HEAR YOU.

THEN HOW COME YOU DIDN'T TELL YOUR OWN FAMILY UNTIL THINGS GOT WAY OUT OF HAND?

NO, SIR...

NAG

SO, PLEASE, TRUST IN US A LITTLE MORE, WILL YOU?

WHEN I THINK ABOUT HOW YOU'RE KEEPING US IN THE DARK EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE SCARED AND ALONE...

...I FEEL SO POWERLESS...

...AND SAD.

EVEN IF NOTHING DRASTIC HAPPENS,

NATSUO-KUN...

THANKS FOR WALKING ME HOME.

ALSO,

I'M SORRY FOR BASICALLY IGNORING YOUR CONCERN.

IT'S COOL. I WASN'T TRYING TO CHEW YOU OUT OR ANYTHING.

I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW WHERE WE'RE COMING FROM.

WELL, GOOD NIGHT.

UM... ONCE THINGS SETTLE DOWN...

...I'LL TAKE YOU OUT TO LUNCH AS THANKS, OKAY?

FOR REAL? AWESOME!

HEY...

NATSUO-KUN.

I'M BEG-GING YOU.

OPEN YOUR EYES ...

DOME GIRL



Natsuo Fujii

Profile

Birthday: July 13th
Blood Type: A
Height: 178cm
Hobbies: Reading, watching films
Strengths: Storytelling, housework
Weaknesses: Sports, drawing

Favorite Foods:
Pork shogayaki, hamburg steak, curry, takowasa
Favorite Fusic:
KIRINJI, Asako Toki, Kenshi Yonezu, Gen Hoshino, YUKI
Favorite Books:
The works of Osamu Dazai, Haruki Murakami, Yo Hasukawa, Tomihiko Morimi, and Marumi Sasaki

Kei Sasuga's Comments

I feel that Natsuo, in a way, represents the ideal man. Being *too* honest and clean-cut makes a person a little creepy, but Natsuo aims to be that guy, while, in reality, having the same fantasies and temptations as any other man. I feel like in Natsuo's position, some 80% of men would happily try to keep dating Hina and Rui at the same time. The fact that he doesn't, and has such concern for both of them, is the idealized part of Natsuo.

CHAPTER 186: I'M BEGGING YOU...

SO, WE JUST NEED HIS SEAL* AND...

WHERE'S NATSUO-KUN'S INSUR-ANCE CARD?

I THINK HE KEEPS IT IN HIS WALLET.

THEN IT'S BACK AT THE HOSPITAL.

*A PERSONAL STAMP USED FOR OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS IN PLACE OF A SIGNATURE.

IF I LOSE NATSUO, TOO,

I...

JUN-CHAN ...

LOSING YOU WAS ALREADY TOO MUCH TO BEAR.

I WON'T KNOW ...

...WHAT TO DO WITH MYSELF ANYMORE.

WHY DON'T YOU TWO TAKE A BREAK?

WE'LL KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.

THE POLICE MIGHT WANT YOU FOR MORE QUES-TIONING, HINA.

YOU CAN'T GO TO WORK LIKE THIS, RIGHT?

THEN AT LEAST CALL WORK AND LET THEM KNOW YOU'RE HERE.

...

YES, SIR!

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK TODAY, AS WELL.

THIS CONCLUDES OUR MORNING MEETING.

FURTHERMORE...

!

DUE TO PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, TACHIBANA-SAN WILL BE TAKING A LEAVE OF ABSENCE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

蒼葉総合病院

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE MAY BE SOME SHIFT ADJUSTMENTS.

HELLO?

TACHIBANA SPEAKING.

IT'S ALL RIGHT. WE'RE ALLOWED TO MAKE CALLS IN THE ROOM.

...OH, YOU'RE PROBABLY AT THE HOSPITAL ...

OH, OKAY THEN.

THE MANAGER JUST FILLED US IN!

ARE YOU FREE TO TALK RIGHT NOW?!

TACHI-BANA-CHAN ?!

IT'S ME, SUSUKINO!

HOW'S LITTLE BRO DOING?

HIS LIFE'S NOT IN ANY DANGER, IS IT?

YES... HE JUMPED ME ON MY WAY HOME FROM WORK.

YOU'RE KIDDING ...

YOUR STEP-BROTHER WAS STABBED?

WAS IT *HIM?*

ARE YOU OKAY ?

TACHI-BANA-SAN.

HE'S STILL IN A COMA.

I DON'T KNOW ...

YES ...

I'M FINE...

EXCUSE ME...

KNOCK KNOCK

コンコン

WOW...

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

THE CREW MADE PANINIS FOR EVERY-ONE.

HERE. THESE ARE FOR YOU.

HIBIKI!

STILL NO SIGN OF NATSUO COMING TO?

AT ALL?

NO...

IT'S OKAY. I GET IT.

SORRY. FATHER WANTED TO BE HERE, TOO, BUT HE'S ON A BUSINESS TRIP RIGHT NOW.

FATHER TOLD ME WHAT HAP-PENED.

I WAS FLOORED ...

...THAT SOMETHING SO HORRIFYING HAPPENED TO SOMEONE I KNOW.

IF IT WAS AN ILLNESS OR AN ACCIDENT, THAT'S ONE THING, BUT...

I CAN'T BELIEVE ...

I'M PRETTY SURE THEY'RE TRACKING HIM DOWN AS WE SPEAK.

NOT YET...

HAVE THEY CAUGHT THE GUY WHO DID IT?

IT'S HARD TO RELAX ...

...KNOWING HE'S STILL ON THE LOOSE

MUMBLE ブツ

IT'S NOT MY FAULT.

MUMBLE ブツ

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.

MUMBLE ブツ

HE JUST JUMPED IN FRONT OF ME.

MUMBLE ブツ

YEAH... I PROBA-BLY JUST NICKED HIM, ANYWAY.

MUMBLE ブツ

I'LL JUST GO TO WORK NEXT WEEK LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED.

MUMBLE ブツ

I GUESS I COULD HEAD OVERSEAS ON MY NEXT VACATION, TOO.

MUMBLE ブツ

OH, YEAH. I NEED TO WITHDRAW SOME CASH...

KENGO...

MY SON ISN'T HERE!

THEN YOU WON'T MIND IF WE SEARCH THE HOUSE.

WE HAVE A WARRANT.

EMP-TY...

THINK HE ALREADY SKIPPED TOWN?

ガチャ CH

チャッ ACK

OGI-SAN?

スタ TMP

スタ TMP

SHWIP

TAKING INTO CUSTODY AT 1:07 PM.

SUSPECT CON-FIRMED.

DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!

GET THOSE CUFFS ON HIM!

AH!

HEY!

FWIP

I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING WRONG!

YOU'RE MAKING A MIS-TAKE!

THAT DUMBASS JUMPED IN FRONT OF THE KNIFE!

ARE YOU NEAR A TV?

SORRY I KEEP CALLING YOU!

HELLO?

SUSU-KINO-SAN?

SWITCH TO THE NEWS!

THERE'S ONE IN THE ROOM.

A TV...?

TURN IT ON!

TANABE IS ACCUSED OF STALKING A FEMALE ACQUAINTANCE FOR WEEKS,

UNTIL AROUND 6 PM LAST NIGHT, WHEN HE STABBED THE WOMAN'S YOUNGER BROTHER IN THE SIDE WITH A KNIFE

ニュース速報

THE SUSPECT ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF ASSAULT AND STALKING...

...WAS INNER CITY BUSINESS-MAN KENGO TANABE, AGE 28.

THIS IS GREAT, HINA-CHAN.

YOU CAN REST EASY KNOWING THEY GOT THE BASTARD.

YEAH.

THEY CAUGHT HIM?!

THANK GOD...

BUT...

NATSUO-KUN'S STILL...

DON'T WORRY.

I'LL BE FINE.

YOU SHOULD GET SOME SLEEP, TSUKIKO.

HOW CAN I SLEEP ...

...WHEN NATSUO-KUN'S LIFE IS IN DANGER LIKE THIS?

IF ONLY I HADN'T TOLD MY CLIENT ABOUT HINA!

TSU-KIKO ...

I'M SO SORRY, AKIHITO-SAN.

I LOVE NATSUO-KUN LIKE MY OWN FLESH AND BLOOD!

HE'S ...

...MY ONE AND ONLY SON.

IT'S ALL MY FAULT ...!

IF...

IF BY ANY CHANCE WORST COMES TO WORST,

I DON'T KNOW...

...HOW I COULD FACE YOU OR JUN-SAN!

HOW...

...COULD I LET THIS HAPPEN TO HIM?!

BUT HAVE FAITH THAT HE'LL PULL THROUGH.

WHAT WE NEED TO DO NOW ISN'T WALLOW IN RE-MORSE,

"WHAT COULD I HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY? HOW COULD I HAVE AVOIDED THIS?"

WHEN MY WIFE PASSED AWAY, I ASKED MYSELF CON-STANTLY,

MAYBE IF YOU COULD PREDICT THE FUTURE, YOU'D NEVER HAVE TO SUFFER.

"IF ONLY I'D DONE *BLANK* BACK THEN."

"MAYBE THINGS WOULD'VE BEEN DIFFERENT *IF...*"

NATSUO-KUN...

HNN...

BUT NO AMOUNT OF HIND-SIGHT WILL CHANGE ANYTHING,

NOR WILL IT BRING YOU ANY PEACE OF MIND.

ONCE YOU START THINKING LIKE THAT, THERE'S NO END TO IT.

JUN-CHAN ...

JUN-CHAN.

IF YOU'RE LISTEN-ING,

PLEASE ...

BRING NATSUO BACK TO US.

I'M BEGGING YOU...



ああああ

…HUH?

WHAT WAS I DOING AGAIN…?

OH, MAN.

I'M BEAT.

LESSEE... I WENT TO WORK, GOT OFF,

THEN I CALLED HINA-NEE AND...

YAWN あ ふぁ

NOPE.

TOO TIRED.

NATSUO.

...

THE HELL?

GUESS I'M JUST HEARING THINGS.

WHAT? GIMME A BREAK.

WHO'S—

MM...

HUH?

DAD?

RUI?

NATSUO.

MOM ...?

CLUNK

...

WE SHOULD BE THERE FOR HER IN ANY WAY WE CAN.

THANKS FOR SAVING HINA-NEE.

GRRP

...HINA FEELS EVEN WORSE THAN I DO.

I'M SURE ...

MAYBE ...

...WE SHOULD HAVE LET THEM DO AS THEY PLEASED.

SHE'S PROBABLY ASKING HERSELF WHERE SHE WENT WRONG,

AND WHAT SHE COULD'VE DONE TO PREVENT THIS.

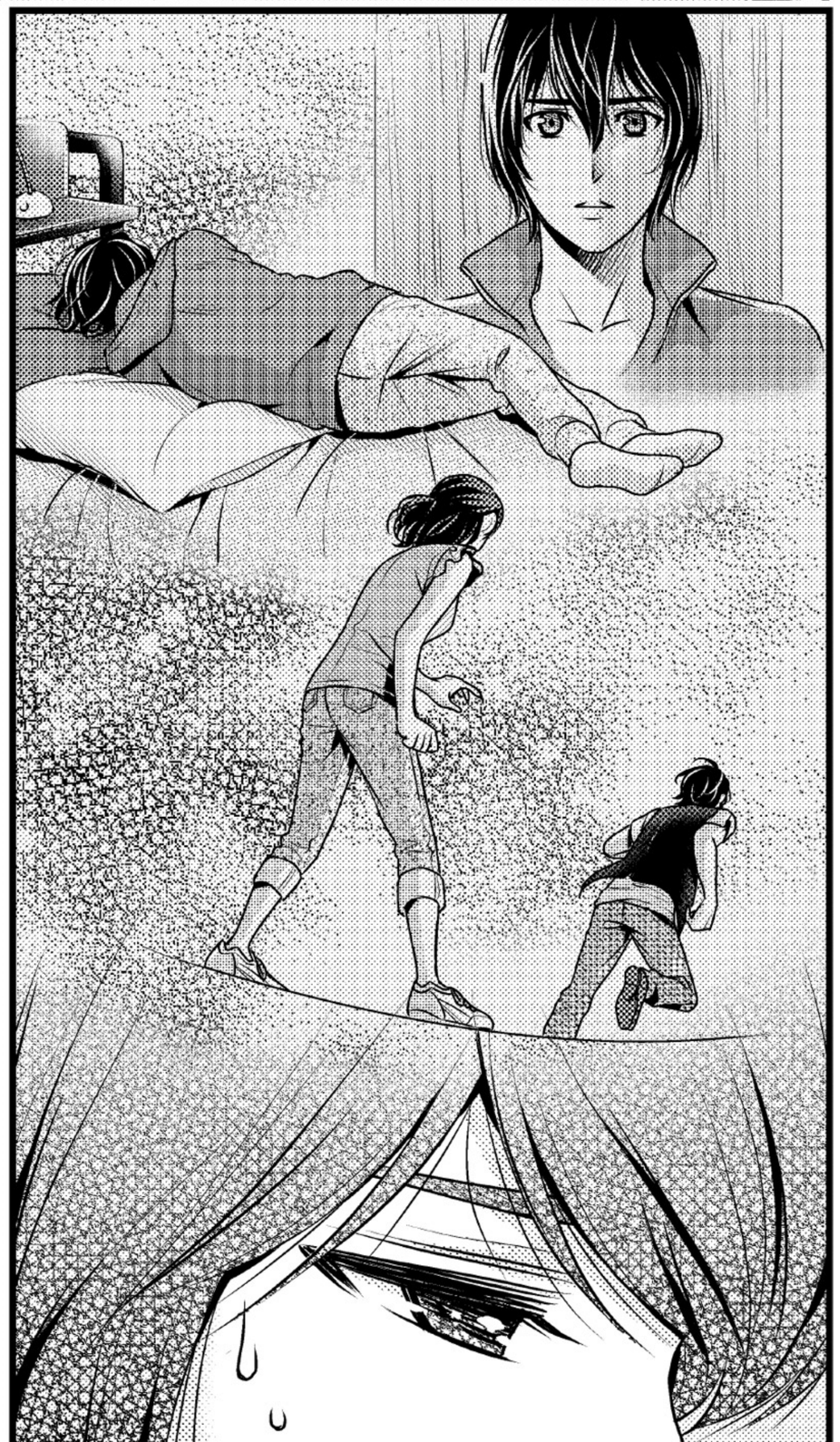
THEN MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE JUST ACCEPTED IT...

IF NATSUO-KUN AND HINA WERE DESTINED TO FALL IN LOVE,

...AND LET THEM BE TOGETHER.

CHAPTER 187: WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN?







DID YOU ...

... HEAR THAT?

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK SURPRISED.

RUI...

HEAR WHAT?

WAS IT SOMETHING IMPORTANT?

カラ... ラ... RATL

NO...

NOT REALLY.

HUH?

FUJII-KUN'S AWOL AGAIN TODAY?

ザー

ザー

ザー

HE HASN'T READ THE LINE MESSAGE I SENT HIM YESTERDAY.

MAYBE HE'S ON A TRIP OR SOME-THING.

Y'KNOW THE STABBING THAT HAP-PENED NEAR HERE?

FWIP FWIP

KNOW ANYTHING, KINASHI?

HE DIDN'T SHOW UP FOR THE READ-THROUGH YESTERDAY, EITHER.

LOOKS LIKE IT.

DIDN'T SOMEONE TWEET A PIC OF THE SCENE?

TURNS OUT THE GUY WAS A STALKER.

IT CREEPED ME OUT WHEN THEY SAID THEY HADN'T CAUGHT THE PERP YET.

YEESH.

I MEAN, THE ARTICLE SAID THE VICTIM WAS "A LOCAL COLLEGE STUDENT."

I'M PRETTY SURE IT WAS SOMEONE FROM OUR SCHOOL, DUDE.

GYAAAH!

HOLY SHIT! YOU CAN SEE THE KNIFE STICKING OUT!

... HUH?

HOLD UP. ISN'T THIS...

THIS HAD TO BE TAKEN LIKE RIGHT AFTER IT HAP-PENED.

OH, MAN...

YO, ZOOM IN.

FOR REAL?!

IT WAS GOING VIRAL WHEN I CHECKED THIS MORNING.

PULL IT UP!

WHAAAA?!!!

FUJII?

YOU'LL NEVER BE-LIEVE THIS!

NARA-SAN! CHECK THIS SHIT OUT!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

HUH?!

LOOKS LIKE IT WAS FUJII!

THAT KID WHO GOT STABBED AROUND HERE?

OH, MY GOD...

LET ME SEE.

LOOK.

ザーザー

NEW 9/14 (FRI) 15:58

WARNING SENDS STALKER INTO A FRENZY

NEW 9/14 (FRI) 14:46

STALKING INCIDENT TURNS UGLY

The Elite Businessman's Dark Side

Stalker Stabbing Case

College Student Jumps in Front of Knife to Save Sister

杉並区の路上で起きた

WE ARE CURRENTLY OUTSIDE THE VICTIM'S HOSPITAL...

...WHERE HE REMAINS UNCONSCIOUS AND IN CRITICAL CONDITION.

ジュッキリ。

WELL, IT'S TURNED INTO QUITE A BIG STORY, AFTER ALL. IT'S ALL OVER THE TV AND THE INTERNET.

THERE WERE A TON OF REPORTERS OUTSIDE.

?

...

COME IN.

KNOCK KNOCK

コンコン

YES?

I JUST HOPE NATSUO-KUN'S AND HINA'S NAMES DON'T GET OUT...

TANABE-SAN!

!

ガラガラ

...

I...

...FOR ALL OF THE GRIEF MY SON HAS CAUSED!

I'M DEEPLY SORRY...

...THAT I LEARNED WHAT MY SON HAD DONE.

IT WASN'T UNTIL THE POLICE CAME TO OUR HOUSE...

TA-

TANABE-SAN...

FIAN-CÉE?

SHE BROKE THINGS OFF SOON AFTER THEY'D GOTTEN ENGAGED.

INCLUDING THE MESS WITH HIS EX-FIANCÉE...

...

I DID MY BEST ...

...TO BE TOUGH BUT FAIR IN RAISING HIM.

WE THOUGHT SHE'D JUST HAD A CHANGE OF HEART,

BUT THE POLICE INFORMED US OF THE TRUTH.

IT TURNS OUT MY SON WAS EMOTIONALLY ABUSIVE TOWARDS HER, AND HARASSED HER EVEN AFTER THEY'D BROKEN UP.

I TAUGHT HIM TO GIVE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT, AND NEVER BACK DOWN.

TO BECOME BOTH A GOOD MAN AND A GOOD LEADER.

HE TOOK MY WORDS TO HEART.

HE NEVER FALTERED AND ALWAYS DID US PROUD.

I DON'T HAVE THE WORDS ...

...TO EXPRESS MY REGRET!

TO THINK ...

...THAT SAME SON OF OURS WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS!

SO INNOCENT AND GOOD...

HE WAS SUCH SWEET,

HE...

GENTLE BOY.

I...

I DON'T KNOW ...

...WHERE WE WENT WRONG.

I CAN'T APOLOGIZE ENOUGH...

I'M... SO SORRY... FOR WHAT HE DID TO YOUR SON.

I...

...

FWAP

IF YOU'RE HERE, DOES THAT MEAN I'M...DEAD?

HANG ON A SEC.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

HEY...

IT'S NATSUO! I MISSED YOU SO MUCH!

YAY!

LOOK AT HOW MUCH YOU'VE GROWN! I'M SO HAPPY!

WAS SHE ALWAYS THIS EASYGOING ...?

LIKE THE ECONOMY.

MMM.

HALF-WAY DEAD?

YOU'RE RIGHT, ALL THIS DARKNESS MAKES IT FEEL LIKE THE AFTERLIFE, DOESN'T IT?

HOW ABOUT A CHANGE OF SCENERY ?

FLICK

...!

OUR OLD APART-MENT...

I REALLY WISH I COULD'VE STUCK AROUND LONGER.

YOU USED TO BE SUCH A CRYBABY WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE.

BRINGS BACK MEMORIES, DOESN'T IT?

I WANTED TO MAKE LUNCH FOR YOU,

TAKE YOU TO ALL SORTS OF PLACES,

READ BOOKS TO YOU ...

I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE MY LITTLE BOY...

...IS NOW GROWN UP ENOUGH TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE HE LOVES.

AND I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT GIRLS WHEN YOU HIT PUBERTY,

HAVE YOU TELL ME "SHUT UP YOU OLD HAG" DURING YOUR REBELLIOUS PHASE,

FIND NAUGHTY MAGAZINES WHEN I CLEANED YOUR ROOM...

UHH. I DUNNO ABOUT THOSE LAST FEW.

AH...

HEY, MOM...

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

ABOUT... EVERY-THING.

OH, YEAH ...

I GOT STABBED.

HMM. MOST OF IT?

YOU GIVE ME UPDATES IN YOUR HEAD WHENEVER YOU VISIT MY GRAVE, REMEMBER?

OH, CRAP. THAT WAS ENOUGH? I GOTTA WATCH WHAT I THINK ABOUT...

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO, NATSUO?

SO?

WHAT YOU WANT WILL DECIDE WHERE YOU GO.

HUH ...?

I GUESS ...

...THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME.

LOOKING BACK, THERE'S A LOT I WISH I COULD CHANGE,

THE MOMENT I SAW YOU, I KINDA PREPARED MYSELF FOR THE WORST.

OH...

GOTCHA.

BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE HINA-NEE'S SAFE,

AND WHILE I DIDN'T GET TO PUT A BOOK OUT, AT LEAST MY WORK WAS RECOGNIZED.

...

TO BE HON-EST,

IT'S DROP-PING?!

CALL THE NURSE! HURRY!

HIS PULSE ...!

CLATR

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

101

99

18/75 (95)

20

NAT-SUO-KUN!

NOT LIKE THIS!

HANG IN THERE! PLEASE!

NAT-SUO-KUN!

NAT-SUO!

THEN THERE'S RUI. IT'D BE PRETTY TRAUMATIC TO LOSE HER BOY-FRIEND LIKE THIS.

NOT TO MENTION DAD AND TSUKIKO-SAN.

IT'LL TAKE THEM A WHILE TO GET OVER THIS, TOO.

IF SHE'D STAYED A TEACHER, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED. SHE HAD TO QUIT BECAUSE OF ME.

...IF I DIE, HINA-NEE WILL DEFINITELY BLAME HERSELF, HUH?

AHH, BUT ...

WELL, I CAN GO ON AND ON, BUT...

KNOWING HINA-NEE, SHE MIGHT FALL APART OVER THIS...

...I GUESS I STILL WANNA BE WITH EVERYONE.

...WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT...

I'M SURE...

...IT'LL BE TOUGH FOR YOU GOING FORWARD.

WILL YOU BE OKAY?

IT SOUNDS LIKE...

...A LOT OF PEOPLE WANT TO BE WITH YOU, TOO.

YEAH.

BUT IT WON'T BE *ALL* BAD.

GO ON.

THE EXIT'S THAT WAY.

'ATTA BOY.

HEY, MOM ...

WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN?

I'LL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU.

ANYTIME YOU WANT.

NAT-SUO...

NATSUO-KUN!

RUI...

...NEE.

HINA...

CALL THE DOCTOR! TELL HIM THE PATIENT'S AWAKE!

OKAY!

OH, THANK GOD!

NATSUO!

NAT-SUO-KUN!

CHAPTER 188: SIGNS OF LIFE

7:12

College Student **Stabbed by Stalker** Regains Consciousness Three Days After Incident

WE'VE RECEIVED WORD THAT THE VICTIM HAS REGAINED CONSCIOUS-NESS,

AND IS CURRENTLY IN STABLE CONDITION.

青葉総合病院
Aoba General Hospital

WE HAVE AN UPDATE REGARDING THE INNER-CITY COLLEGE STUDENT WHOSE LIFE WAS LEFT HANGING IN THE BALANCE AFTER A RECENT STABBING.

MALE COLLEGE STUDENT

Regained consciousness at the hospital last night.

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D MAKE THE NEWS LIKE *THIS*.

I HAVEN'T EVEN MADE MY BOOK DEBUT YET.

THAT'S GREAT NEWS.

HIS FAMILY MUST BE SO RELIEVED.

THE CULPRIT IS FORTU-NATELY IN CUSTODY, BUT THIS MUST HAVE ALL COME AS QUITE A SHOCK TO THEM.

IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME TO PICK UP THE PIECES...

DON'T EVEN TALK LIKE THAT!

IF...IF THE UNSPEAKABLE HAD HAPPENED, I FELT THE ONLY WAY I COULD POSSIBLY MAKE UP FOR IT WOULD BE TO FOLLOW YOU...

YIKES! GOOD THING I CAME BACK.

I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW GLAD I AM TO HEAR YOUR VOICE AGAIN, NATSUO-KUN!

OH, THANK GOD!

AT LEAST YOUR NAME'S NOT OUT THERE.

OH, YEAH. WHILE I WAS OUT...

I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT, THOUGH...

...I THINK...

...MOM SHOWED UP IN MY DREAMS.

YOU'D BETTER THANK HER.

THANK YOU, JUN-CHAN.

I'M SURE ...

...SHE BROUGHT YOU BACK TO US.

YEAH, I'M FINE.

WILL YOU BE OKAY IF WE GO TO WORK?

GOOD MORNING, FUJII-SAN. HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

NOT BAD.

THE WOUND STILL HURTS, BUT I'M THINKING CLEARLY.

I TOOK SOME TIME OFF.

DON'T YOU HAVE WORK, TOO, HINA-NEE?

HE'S ALL YOURS, HINA.

AND THE CLUB ...

OH, SHIT. I MISSED OUT ON WORK, DIDN'T I?!

YOU MIGHT WANNA CHECK YOUR MESSAGES IN CASE SOMEONE TRIED TO CALL.

OH, YEAH. I LEFT YOUR PHONE OFF.

YEAH, PEOPLE SURE CALLED!

MAKE SURE YOU LET EVERY-ONE KNOW YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, OKAY?

WHOA!

7:21
Sep 15 (Fri)
Phone
1 Day Ago
84 New Calls
LINE
3 Hours Ago
37 Notifications
Messages
1 Day Ago
16 New Messages

GOOD IDEA.

RESPONDING TO EVERY-ONE WITHOUT MAKING THEM WORRIED REALLY WORE ME OUT...

I'LL PUT YOUR BED DOWN.

DO YOU NEED TO GO TO THE BATH-ROOM?

タス TAP

PHEW.

I FINALLY GOT THROUGH EVERY-THING...

DON'T PUSH YOURSELF. WHY DON'T YOU REST FOR A BIT?

I-IF YOU'RE TOO WEAK TO WALK,

YOU CAN USE *THIS* IF YOU WANT!

BED

!

PAN!

BUT I SHOULD BE GOOD.

THEY TOOK OUT THE CATHETER THIS MORNING, SO I FEEL LIKE THERE'S STILL A BIT LEFT IN THE TANK,

LEFT IN THE TANK ...

O-OH!

AND THE DOC SAID I SHOULD WALK AROUND TO HELP BUILD UP MY STRENGTH, ANYWAY!

M-MY WOUND HEALED UP A LOT WHILE I WAS OUT.

THAT'S OKAY! I'M FINE, REALLY!

DO-

DO YOU WANNA GO...?

SO YOU SHOULDN'T PUSH YOURSELF.

AND IT'S NOT GOOD TO HOLD IT.

...

BUT ...

YOU JUST WOKE UP,

M-MOMO?!

I JUST MESSAGED YOU ON LINE!

HOW'D YOU GET HERE SO FAST?!

I COULDN'T JUST SIT STILL! YOU SCARED ME HALF TO DEATH!

NATSUO-KUN! ARE YOU OKAY?!

THWAP

I TOLD ALLIE, BUT HE'S OVERSEAS RIGHT NOW. HE WAS REALLY WORRIED.

QUIT MAKING A BIG DEAL OUT OF THIS!

OH, AND I CALLED EVERYONE AND DRAGGED THEM WITH ME BEFORE THEY WENT TO SCHOOL, TOO.

SHUFF

HUH?! WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?!

THE SEMESTER STARTED, RIGHT?!

WELL, OBVIOUSLY WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE.

H-HUH?

WHERE'S HINA-NEE?!

UNDER THE BED.

TH-THAT WAS CLOSE...

I HAVE TO SAY, I'M IMPRESSED YOU TOOK A KNIFE TO THE BELLY FOR SOME-ONE.

HONESTLY, I DIDN'T THINK YOU HAD THAT KINDA GUTS, SEMPAI.

OH, UH.

YEAH...

I SAW THE NEWS. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD AN OLDER SISTER, NATSUO-KUN.

YOU NEVER MENTIONED ANY SIBLINGS, SO THAT WAS A SURPRISE, TOO.

!

LIKE, SAY, IF A GIRL CLOSE TO YOU WERE IN DANGER...

YOU'D PROBABLY DO THE SAME THING, SHIBASAKI.

WHEN IT'S TO PROTECT SOMEONE IMPORTANT TO YOU, YOUR BODY JUST KINDA MOVES ON ITS OWN.

SEE-YA. WE'LL SWING BY AGAIN.

REST WELL.

...IM-PORTANT.

SOME-ONE...

WHAT? IT WAS JUST AN EXAMPLE.

HEY ...!

HUH? WHAT'RE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?

のRSTL そ

TWITCH

WHEW...

ハタ～ン THMP

MAYBE SHE SNUCK OUT OF THE ROOM...

OH, YEAH. WHERE'D HINA-NEE GO, ANYWAY?

I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO REACT, SO I JUST DUCKED UNDER-NEATH...

WITH THE BED PANZ!

YOU WERE UNDER THERE THE WHOLE TIME?!

SOME-ONE...

...

...IMPORT-ANT.

ハタ～ン THMP

LINE ME IF YOU NEED ANY-THING.

YOU MIGHT GET MORE VISITORS, SO I'LL JUST EXCUSE MYSELF FOR A WHILE.

ささくさ SCURRY

S-SORRY...

UHH.

CHAT わーら

DID YOU HAVE TO BRING EVERY SINGLE PERSON IN THE CLUB?

CHAT わーら

!!!

OH...

BUT EVEN ZOOMED IN, YOU COULD *BARELY* TELL IT WAS YOU, SO I DON'T THINK YOUR IDENTITY'S OUT THERE.

IT LOOKED LIKE A SCENE OUT OF A DRAMA OR MOVIE, MAN.

I WAS SHOCKED WHEN I SAW THE PICTURE GOING AROUND ONLINE.

YEAH. I DIDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE HER WITH THE NEW HAIRSTYLE.

YOU *JUST* NO-TICED ?

WAIT, SERI-ZAWA ?!

HUH?! SOMEONE UPLOADED A PICTURE ?!

IT MIGHT BE NICE FOR YOUR UPCOMING ROLE, TOO.

COOL.

LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.

CUTE, HUH? SHE SAID SHE CHANGED UP HER BANGS FOR A NEW LOOK!

HUH...

HUH?

DID I MAKE HER MAD?

NOPE.

QUITE THE OPPO-SITE.

...!

DA

SH

THE COAST SHOULD BE CLEAR, RIGHT?

RATL カラ

EVE-NIN'.

OH! FUMIYA-KUN!

I PUT SOME NURSE-THEMED STUFF IN THERE FOR YOU.

SORRY. AM I INTER-RUPTING?

NOT AT ALL. I WAS JUST ABOUT TO LEAVE.

YOU'RE LOOKING BETTER THAN I EXPECT-ED

MY CARE PACKAGE MIGHT ACTUALLY COME IN HANDY.

HUH?

CARE PACK-AGE?

...!

OH, AND I'M ONLY LENDING THEM TO YOU, OKAY?

SAVOR THEM WHILE YOU CAN!

WHAT'D HE LEND YOU?

B-BOOKS ...

SOME-THING TO PASS THE TIME, HE SAID.

OH, I SEE. THAT'S BEST FRIENDS FOR YOU.

READING'S YOUR FAVORITE PASTIME, AFTER ALL.

DON'T MIND ME. READ WHENEVER YOU FEEL LIKE.

LIKE I CAN LOOK AT PORN WITH HINA-NEE AROUND!

S-

SURE.

DAMN YOU, FUMIYA.

NURSE-THEMED ...

NURSE-THEMED.

JUST FOR YOOoou.

OW, MY BACK ...

OH, GOSH. I THOUGHT I'D SLEEP ON THE COUCH...

...BUT I DOZED OFF.

HUH?

IS IT JUST ME...

...OR ARE THE SHEETS BULG-ING?

OH, NO!

IS SOME-THING SWOL-LEN?!

DID SOME-THING GO WRONG WITH THE IV?!

FWAP

ノオオオオーン
ノオオオオーン
ぽ
BW
おーーん
RRRRT
WHISH
*ぢ!%#$!!!
...
BRRR

WELL,

DUH.

そっ PEEK のぞ

SHUF スス
SHUF スス

IN OTHER WORDS ...

IT'S JUST A NATURAL BODILY FUNCTION.

WHY AM I GETTING EMBAR-RASSED, ANYWAY?

MAKES SENSE.

HE'S BEEN BEDRIDDEN FOR DAYS.

ぐっ HWMP わっ

NATSUO-KUN!

...IT'S PROOF ...

...THAT NATSUO-KUN'S ALIVE!

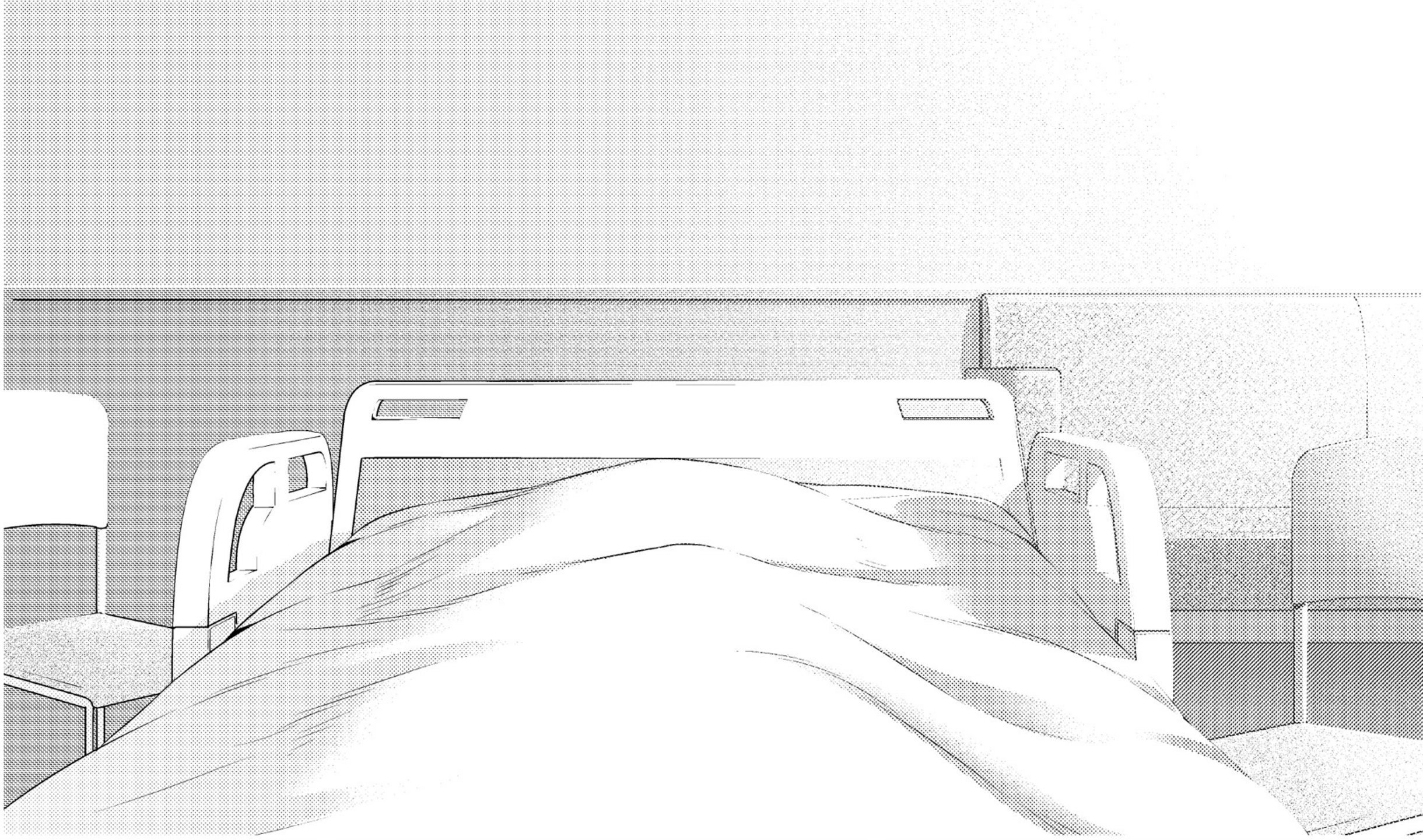
THANK GOD HE'S OKAY,

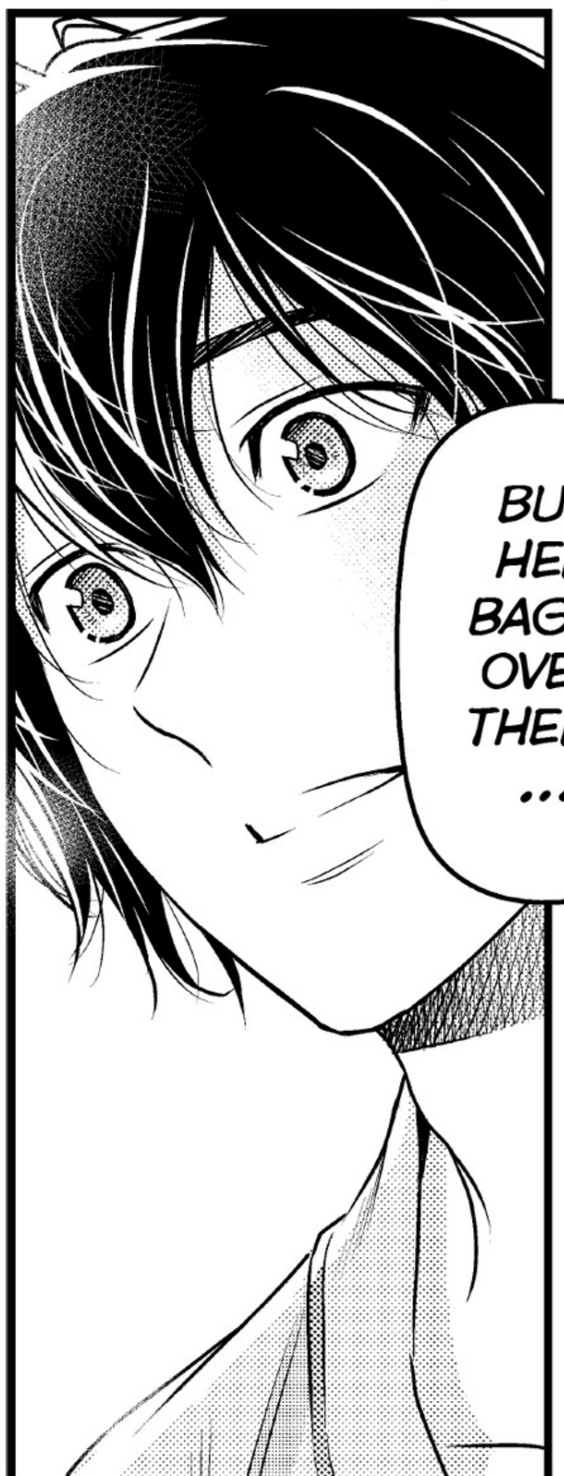
AND HEALTHY AGAIN.

I'M SO GLA–

FOR A MINUTE THERE, I REALLY THOUGHT WERE GOING TO LOSE HIM.











DID SHE GO HOME?

BUT HER BAG'S OVER THERE ...

HUH?

WHERE'S HINA-NEE?

MORNING ALREADY?

FWAH ...

I FEEL LIKE I BARELY SLEPT...

ACK!

のRSTLぇ…

I-I'M GONNA GO CHANGE THE VASE WATER.

OH, SURE …

…?

PAT ぱん

PAT ぱん

…

YOU SCARED ME! DID SOMEONE BARGE IN AGAIN?!

UM, MORE LIKE SOMETHING POPPED UP...

HUH ?!

NOTHING. NEVER MIND.

…

NATSUO-KUN...

I'M SO GLAD...

...YOU'RE OKAY!

FWIP

GASP

HUH ...?

THUD

AWW, C'MON!

DOME GIRL



Hina Tachibana

Profile

Birthday: April 6th
Blood Type: O
Height: 163cm
Hobbies: Watching comedy shows, going to concerts, watching TV dramas, drinking, collecting souvenir t-shirts
Strengths: Goldfish catching, English conversation
Weaknesses: Cooking, thunder and lightning, cockroaches, gory movies

Favorite Foods:
Sushi, Umesuisho, eggplant nibitashi, green tea ice cream
Favorite Fusic:
Hikaru Utada, Namie Amuro, RADWIMPS, Miki Imai, Sukima Switch
Favorite Books:
The works of Nashiki Kaho, Shion Miura, Jun Ikeido, Atsuko Asano, and Rio Shimamoto

Kei Sasuga's Comments

I think Hina's appeal lies in her failings. She is determined, but changes her mind easily. She resolves to take things seriously and work hard, but she can't fight her feelings. Those weaknesses lend a cuteness to an adult character. After all, someone who always does the right thing is kinda scary, right? I think it's her interest in such a variety of things that makes her enjoy drinking together and going on dates so much. I suppose I should also mention her bad luck with men, huh? I'm sure we all know someone like that.

ナースステーション

VISITORS, PLEASE PREPARE TO LEAVE FOR THE EVENING.

ATTEN-TION, PLEASE.

VISITING HOURS WILL BE ENDING SHORTLY.

CHAPTER 189: DESTINY & DETERMINATION

OKAY. I'M TAKING OFF.

AH...

BUT I WAS BUSY WORKING ON A NEW DISH FOR THE FALL MENU.

SORRY... I WOULD HAVE COME EARLIER,

AL-READY?

YOU JUST GOT HERE.

WELL, WHAT CAN I DO? VISITING HOURS ARE OVER.

SURE.

I'LL BE BACK BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.

YEAH, BUT...

I'M GOING HOME.

OH...

DONE ALREADY ?

HINA-NEE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO LEAVE THE ROOM WHEN I VISIT HIM, Y'KNOW.

IT'S OKAY.

ARE YOU STAYING OVER AGAIN, HINA-NEE?

THAT'S THE PLAN.

I BETTER BE CARE-FUL NOT TO FALL ASLEEP IN MY CHAIR AGAIN.

IT'S MY FAULT YOU'RE HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

DON'T SWEAT IT.

AM I BUG-GING YOU?

NO! IT'S JUST...

I DON'T WANT YOU TO WEAR YOURSELF OUT.

UM... IF YOU WANNA GO HOME, THAT'S COOL.

I CAN CALL THE NURSE IF I NEED ANY-THING.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. I'M FINE.

I WANT TO HELP YOU HOWEVER I CAN.

OTHER-WISE, I'LL FEEL EVEN WORSE.

HOW'S THE PAIN?

WHY DON'T WE START YOU ON SOME SOLID FOOD AGAIN AND SEE HOW THAT GOES?

EX-CUSE ME!

YOUR DRAINAGE LEVELS ARE STABLE, TOO. EVERYTHING LOOKS GOOD.

GREAT.

IT STINGS WHEN I MOVE, BUT IT'S NOT SO BAD IF I STAY STILL.

HMM.

...

WILL...

...BUT THEY'LL NEVER GO AWAY COM-PLETELY.

GIVEN ENOUGH TIME, SOME PATIENTS SEE THEIR SCARS FADE UNTIL THEY'RE PRACTICALLY UNNOTICEABLE ...

WILL HE...

...HAVE A SCAR?

I...

I SEE ...

THERE AREN'T MANY AUTHORS WHO CAN SAY THEY'VE BEEN STABBED.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAD YOURSELF VALUABLE EXPERI-ENCE, KID.

HA, HA. FIRSTHAND ACCOUNTS ARE HARD TO COME BY, AFTER ALL.

BUT BELIEVE IT OR NOT, SENSEI WAS ACTUALLY WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU.

SO,

HOW WAS IT? DID THE PAIN HIT YOU RIGHT AWAY, OR WAS THERE A DELAY? HOW DEEP DID THE KNIFE GO?

DO YOU HAVE TO INTERRO-GATE ME NOW?

I WENT TO HIS HOUSE TO PICK UP A MANUSCRIPT THE OTHER DAY, AND WHEN I TOLD HIM WHAT HAPPENED...

SKRF

IS HE OKAY ?!

DID THEY SAVE HIM ?!

WHAT'S HIS CONDI-TION?!

BY THE WAY, THAT'S A BIG BAG YOU BROUGHT WITH YOU.

GOING ON AN-OTHER TRIP?

OH, THIS ?

HE'S A TSUN-DERE...

THAT'S IT, TSUTAYA. I'M TAKIN' MY WORK SOME-WHERE ELSE.

YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN HOW FLUSTERED HE WAS.

I'LL PROBABLY BE OUT WAY BEFORE I GET THROUGH THEM ALL!

THEY SHOULD LAST YOU A MONTH IF YOU READ ONE A DAY.

NOT MUCH ELSE FOR YOU TO DO, RIGHT?

I BROUGHT YOU SOME BOOKS.

I THOUGHT THEY MIGHT GIVE YOU SOME IDEAS FOR YOUR CRIME STORY.

どMP

ぎちFWU

I'D BE CRAZY NOT TO USE THIS EXPERIENCE FOR MY WRITING.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, SENSEI?

SO...

NO.

I'M STICKING WITH IT.

SPEAKING OF YOUR NEW PIECE...

WHAT'S THE PLAN? GIVEN EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED, WANNA CHANGE THE THEME?

SO I HEAR.

I WANT TO ASK HIM ABOUT THAT, TOO.

HE'S STILL DENYING HE HAD ANY INTENT TO KILL.

...WHEN I GET A CHANCE...

I THINK I'M ACTUALLY *MORE* INTERESTED IN CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY BECAUSE OF THIS WHOLE MESS.

HE REALLY SEEMED LIKE A NICE GUY WHEN WE FIRST MET. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT CHANGED HIM.

...I'M GONNA VISIT THE GUY IN PRISON.

OR...

...IF HE EVEN CHANGED AT ALL.

ポッ
PLIP

ポッ
PLIP

ザー
ザー
ザー

ROGER.

EVERYONE, FINISH UP WHAT YOU'RE DOING AND TAKE 15.

NATSUO

How late are you working tonight? Call me when you get off.

THAT WAS QUICK.

HELLO? HEY, RUI.

ARE YOU ALREADY OFF WORK?

ヴー
BVVV

RUI

NO, IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GONNA BE STAYING LATE TONIGHT.

I'M ON BREAK NOW.

OH.

I SEE.

WHAT'S UP? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

NO... NOT REALLY.

I JUST WANTED TO HEAR YOUR VOICE.

OH...

...

RUI...

IF IT HAD BEEN YOU INSTEAD OF HINA-NEE...

...I STILL WOULD'VE DONE THE SAME THING.

JUST BECAUSE I SAVED HER,

I DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK I STILL HAVE FEELINGS FOR—

NO!

SORRY!

RU-

IT'S NOT, I JUST...

THAT'S NOT IT.

...

...SP SP SP SP SPPP

I'M TAKIN' OFF. NIGHT.

GOOD NIGHT.

NIGHT...

YES, FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

YOU GUYS STAY-ING?

PHEW. HARD WORK-ERS.

MM.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

HEY.

MARINATED CELERY MIGHT GO WELL IN THE BRUS-CHETTA, TOO.

PUTTING BASIL IN THIS SAUCE REALLY BRINGS OUT THE FLAVOR OF THE SHRIMP.

YOU'VE BEEN KINDA...

IS SOME-THING WRONG?

...OUT OF IT THE LAST FEW DAYS.

YOU'RE GONNA HURT YOURSELF AGAIN IF YOU KEEP THIS UP.

SORRY...

I'M ASKING HOW THEY TASTE SIDE-BY-SIDE.

HUH?

OH...

WE STAYED BEHIND TO WORK ON THE NEW MENU, REMEMBER? FOCUS.

DID SOME-THING HAPPEN ?

I MEAN, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHARE IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.

...

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO BE CAREFUL AT WORK, AT LEAST.

I KNOW.

TRUST ME, I KNOW.

HEY, KAJITA ...

...

...IN DESTINY ?

DO YOU BELIEVE ...

DESTI-
NY?

NO BUTS!

IT'S FINE.

I CAN WIPE MYSELF DOWN.

PLUS, I ALREADY TOLD THE NURSE I'D DO IT!

LEAVE IT TO ME!

I LOOKED UP THE PROPER PROCEDURE FOR A SPONGE BATH, TOO!

ERG...

YOU CAN'T REACH YOUR BACK, RIGHT?

YOU'LL AGGRAVATE THE WOUND IF YOU BEND AND STRETCH TOO MUCH, ANYWAY.

ジャ
SRSHH

OOOH!

I'LL GET YOUR CHEST NEXT.

ジャーッ SSRSHH

DON'T GET ANY FUNNY IDEAS!

THIS IS JUST REGULAR OLD CARE-GIVING!

OH ...

YOUR BAN-DAGE ...

I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO TOUCH IT, EITHER, SO I'LL ASK THE NURSE TO GET UNDER IT LATER.

ズキ... THROB

ジャー SRSH

...

PLAP

OH, OKAY.

SORRY IT TOOK ME SO LONG TO VISIT!

YOO-HOO, NATSUO-CHAN! I'M HEEERE!

NOT AT ALL!

NOPE!

OOPS...

AM I INTERRUPT-ING?

I CAN COME BACK ANOTHER TIME IF YOU WANT.

REALLY?! I PUT MY HEART INTO THEM, SO FEEL FREE TO SHARE THEM WITH YOUR FAMILY. ♪

I CAN IF I TAKE IT SLOW.

OH, BUT YOU CAN'T EAT THEM, CAN YOU?

THANKS A LO–

!

HERE.

I MADE YOU SOME MADE-LEINES. ♡

I HEARD THINGS GOT SCARY THERE FOR A MINUTE.

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

YEAH, BUT THE WOUND SEEMS TO BE HEALING SMOOTHLY.

OH? I'M SURE YOUR BIG SIS AND RUI-RUI WILL EAT THEM RIGHT UP.

I'D RATHER THEY DIDN'T.

UHH... I DUNNO ABOUT GIVING THESE TO MY FAMILY.

A BULLET?!

あっはっはーっ! AH HA HA

WELL, BACK IN MY MOBSTER DAYS, ONE OF THE YOUNGER GUYS TOOK A BULLET IN THE SIDE AND WALKED AWAY OKAY,

SO I GUESS IT'S MORE COMMON THAN YOU'D THINK!

I'M A LITTLE RELIEVED.

プシュッ PSHT

I SUP-POSE THAT'S TRUE.

BUT I ALSO KNOW THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO MOPE AROUND.

I DO FEEL GUILTY.

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE BEATING YOURSELF UP OVER THIS.

KNOWING YOU,

YOU KNOW, KOBA-YASHI-SAN?

I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.

BROODING OVER THINGS WON'T DO ANYONE ANY GOOD.

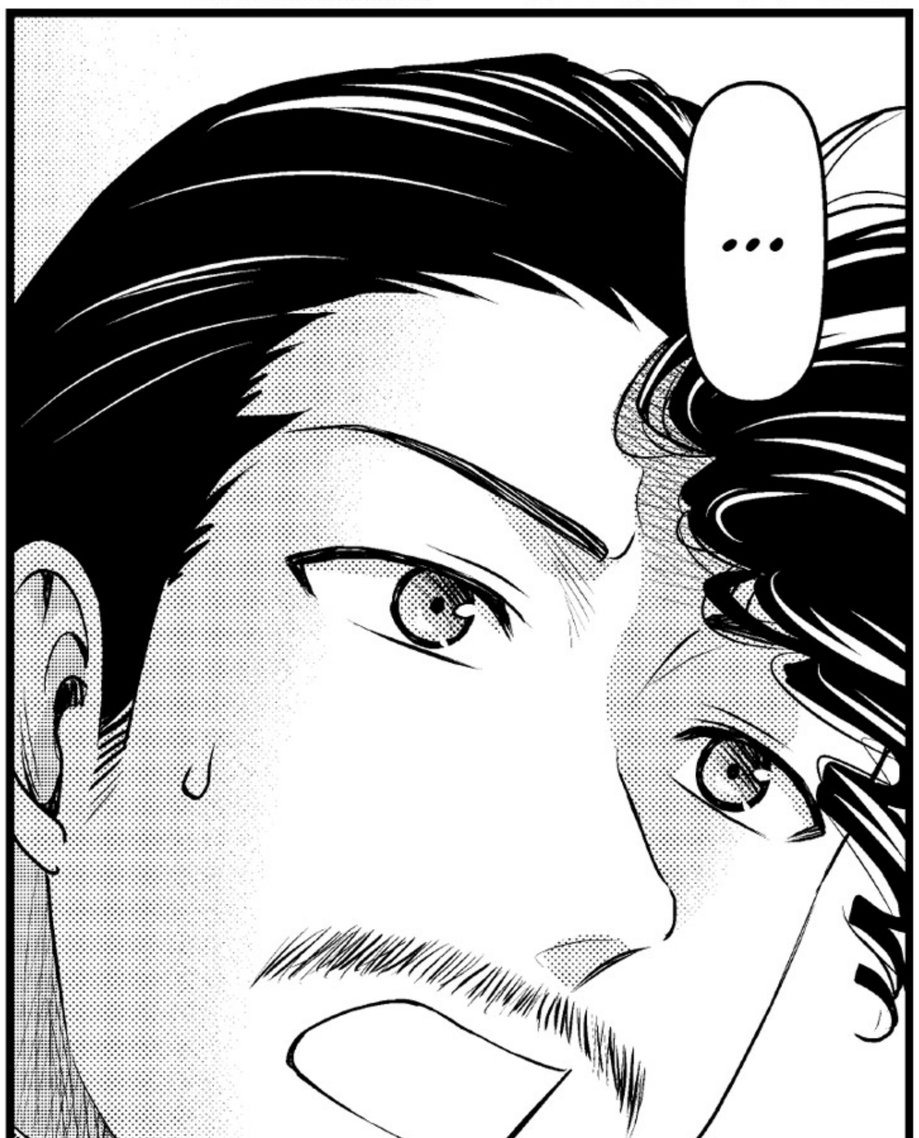
...

FROM NOW ON,

I'M GOING TO DEVOTE MY LIFE TO SUPPORTING NATSUO-KUN.

CHAPTER 190: GIVE EVERYTHING









BEFORE THIS HAPPENED, I WAS PLANNING TO JUST MOVE ON BIT BY BIT.

HON-ESTLY,

AND THEN SOMEDAY,

WHEN I COULD FINALLY SEE NATSUO-KUN AS JUST A LITTLE BROTHER, I COULD LOOK BACK ON ALL THIS AND THINK "OH, YEAH. I REMEMBER THAT!"

I THOUGHT I COULD WAIT FOR MY FEELINGS...

...TO FADE AWAY WITH TIME.

MY HEART'S TOO FULL OF HIM TO JUST LET IT ALL GO!

...I JUST CAN'T DO IT!

NOT AFTER HE RISKED HIS LIFE FOR ME!

BUT...

UNTIL HE ACHIEVES HIS DREAM OF BECOMING A NOVELIST AND BUILDS A HAPPY LIFE FOR HIMSELF ...

I'LL DO ANYTHING TO MAKE HIM HAPPY.

...

I DON'T CARE IF HE DOESN'T LOVE ME BACK.

...I'LL GIVE EVERYTHING I HAVE...

HUH?

WHAT ABOUT *YOUR* HAPPINESS?

AND YOU?

MMM.

I'LL FIGURE THAT OUT AFTER HE'S HAPPY.

MEH.

...IN SUPPORTING HIM ALONG THE WAY.

BUT YOU'RE ALWAYS GETTING CARRIED AWAY BY SOME-THING.

ERG...

HEY, DON'T JUST SHRUG ME OFF! I'M SERIOUS!

WELL,

GO FOR IT, I GUESS.

JUST DON'T OVERDO IT.

HEH

JUST A SEC!

HOW'S THE PRIMO FOR TABLE FIVE COMING?

TABLE EIGHT,

ANTI-PASTO MISTO, *UNO.*

SCALLOP VICHYSSOISE, *DUE.*

BENE.

SURE.

TACHIBANA, CAN YOU GRAB SOME PLATES FOR ME?

TWO FETTUC-CINE, THREE PASTA PLEASE.

BENE.

YEAH.

I HEARD THE BOSS OFFERED HER SOME TIME OFF, BUT SHE TURNED IT DOWN.

TACHI-BANA-SAN'S SUCH A TROOPER.

SHE'S STILL WORKING HER BUTT OFF AFTER EVERY-THING THAT'S HAPPENED TO HER FAMILY.

THANKS!

WOW...

...BORED OR SOME-THING?

...

ARE YOU...

...OR SO I READ SOME-WHERE.

PEOPLE WHO THINK ABOUT STUFF LIKE DESTINY AND THE MEANING OF LIFE HAVE TOO MUCH TIME ON THEIR HANDS.

HUH?

DESTINY?

...THERE'S SOMEONE SPECIAL IN YOUR LIFE.

LET'S SAY...

SELF-DOUBT GOT YOU DOWN?

...

AND EVEN THOUGH YOU WANT TO MAKE THEM HAPPY,

WHAT IF YOU'RE NOT THE ONE WHO'LL DO THAT?

EVEN THOUGH YOU WANT THEM TO BE HAPPY,

WHAT IF BEING WITH YOU ISN'T WHAT'S BEST FOR THEM?

WHAT IS "HAPPINESS" TO YOU, SPECIFICALLY?

IF HE'S DESTINED TO BE WITH SOMEONE ELSE,

I FEEL LIKE I MIGHT JUST BE GETTING IN THE WAY.

...

IS THAT ALL YOUR LAUNDRY?

YEAH. SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.

NO BIGGIE. I'M GOING BACK TO THE HOUSE FOR A BIT, ANYWAY.

ちらっ PEEK

キリ KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

巨乳美女の時間

理性をふっ飛ばす野生の行為

スッ SRRR

ギシ CREAK

SE-

SERI-ZAWA ?!

のぞRUFL

のぞRSTL

JUST YOU TODAY?

YEAH. OH, WERE YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF SOME-THING?

NAH.

I BROUGHT YOU SOME FRUIT JELLY.

OH, COOL!

THANKS!

YOU SAID YOU STILL CAN'T EAT MUCH, RIGHT?

HUH?!

OH, UH...

WELL...

IT'S PRETTY RARE TO SEE YOU ANYWHERE WITHOUT KUSANAGI-SAN.

DID YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR ME?

ABOUT YOUR ROLE OR SOME-THING.

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN TELL HIM...

...I'M HERE ALONE BECAUSE MY LOVE HOROSCOPE WAS RATED FIVE STARS THIS WEEK!

OR THAT I LOOKED UP "HOW TO STEAL A MAN'S HEART IN A SINGLE HOSPITAL VISIT" ONLINE BEFORE I CAME!

LEO LOVE LUCK

This is your week! Your efforts are sure to be rewarded, so flip your love switch and stay on the offensive!

MISSION 1: BRING A THOUGHT-FUL GIFT.

HERE. I BROUGHT YOU A BOOK, TOO.

I FINISHED IT RECENT-LY AND THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE IT.

I FIGURED YOU MUST BE BORED TO TEARS LYING IN BED ALL DAY.

THANKS! I'LL DEFI-NITELY READ IT.

BUT IT MIGHT TAKE ME A WHILE TO GET IT BACK TO YOU. IS THAT COOL?

HUH?

OH... I GUESS YOU'RE COVERED, THEN!

SORRY. I'LL READ IT AFTER I GET OUT, OKAY?

STACKED どっちゃ!!

I'VE ACTUALLY GOT A PILE OF BOOKS I NEED TO GET THROUGH WHILE I'M IN THE HOSPITAL.

!

DID...

...YOUR GIRLFRIEND BRING YOU THOSE BOOKS?

...HASN'T SHE... BEEN VISITING YOU MUCH?

NAH.

MY WRITING MENTOR BROUGHT THEM, ACTUALLY.

MY GIRL-FRIEND'S BEEN KINDA BUSY WITH WORK LATELY.

YEAH, WELL ...

WHAT CAN YOU DO? DUTY CALLS.

MISSION 2:

GREET THE OTHER PATIENTS IN THE ROOM AND THE HOSPITAL STAFF.

UM...!

MY NAME IS SERIZAWA! I'M IN THE SAME DRAMA CLUB AS FUJII-KUN!

P-PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM!

FWIP

KNOCK KNOCK

コンコン

I COULD COME BY AFTER PRACTICE IF-

PARDON US.

HOW ARE YOU FEELING, FUJII-SAN?

GASP

ER... YES, MA'AM.

REST ASSURED, HE'S IN GOOD HANDS.

GOOD AFTERNOON.

...I SHOULD'VE JUST SAID HI.

CALM DOWN, GIRL!

MAYBE...

TAKE YOUR TIME.

I GOT YOUR RESULTS BACK FROM THE LAB.

DID I CREEP HIM OUT?!

HUH?!

ACTUALLY, IT'S ABOUT THE SCENE WHERE THE DANCER TRIES TO KEEP THE DETECTIVE AWAY FROM THE PROPRIETRESS AFTER FALLING FOR HIM.

I'M NOT SURE HOW TO APPROACH IT...

WELL, IF I HAD TO ASK SOME-THING...

OH!

UM...

OH, YEAH. DIDN'T YOU HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT YOUR ROLE?

GASP

I CAN SEE HOW THE DELIVERY WOULD BE TOUGH.

AHH... YEAH, THE DANCER'S EXPERIENCING A LOT OF INNER TURMOIL THERE.

HE MUST FEEL SO HELP-LESS.

BUT HIS GIRL-FRIEND'S TOO BUSY WITH WORK TO EVEN VISIT HIM?

HE SURE LOOKS DOWN...

HE WENT THROUGH SOMETHING SO TRAU-MATIC,

WHY AM I ASKING HIM FOR ADVICE?!

あああああ

I SHOULD BE CONSOLING HIM!

I-

IF...

I NEED TO BE THERE FOR HIM!

IF YOU EVER FEEL LONELY OR ANXIOUS...

...FEEL FREE TO CALL ME ANYTIME!

MISSION 3: MAKE HIM FEEL LIKE YOU CARE.

NICE.

THAT WAS REALLY GOOD!

YOU'RE THINKING OF CHANGING THE LINE TO SOMETHING LIKE THAT, RIGHT?

SHE REALLY VALUES THE ACTOR'S OPINION WHEN IT COMES TO THE ACTUAL PERFOR-MANCE.

I THINK HANA-SEMPAI WOULD BE COOL WITH IT, TOO.

MISSION 4:

DON'T OVER-STAY YOUR WEL-COME.

THANKS! I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND!

DA

SH

I'M BACK.

I JUST SAW A GIRL FROM YOUR CLUB IN THE LOBBY.

THE LEAD ACTRESS FROM THE ROOKIE PERFOR-MANCE.

DID SHE COME TO VISIT YOU?

YEAH. I GUESS SHE STRUGGLING WITH HER ROLE, TOO.

HM? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I WAS HOLDING IT IN WHILE SERIZAWA WAS HERE.

THE BATH-ROOM.

YIKES...

!

WAIT! THERE'S A BOOK ON THE FLOOR!

HUH ?!

WOBL

HINA...

...NEE.

RIGHT.

SORRY...

WATCH YOUR STEP.

"#SKF"

WE'LL START SERVING THEM NEXT WEEKEND,

SO WRITE UP A LIST OF INGREDIENTS TO ORDER.

YES, SIR.

ALL RIGHT. FOR THE NEW ANTI-PASTO MENU,

LET'S GO WITH THE FALL VEGE-TABLE BAGNA CÀUDA,

SEA BREAM CAR-PACCIO,

AND SHRIMP TARTARE BRUS-CHETTA.

...

DO YOU *ENJOY* MAKING FUN OF PEOPLE'S PROB-LEMS?

YOU WON'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT DUMB STUFF.

WE'LL BE EVEN BUSIER ONCE THE FALL SERVICE STARTS.

GOOD FOR YOU.

...

HEY, TACHI-BANA.

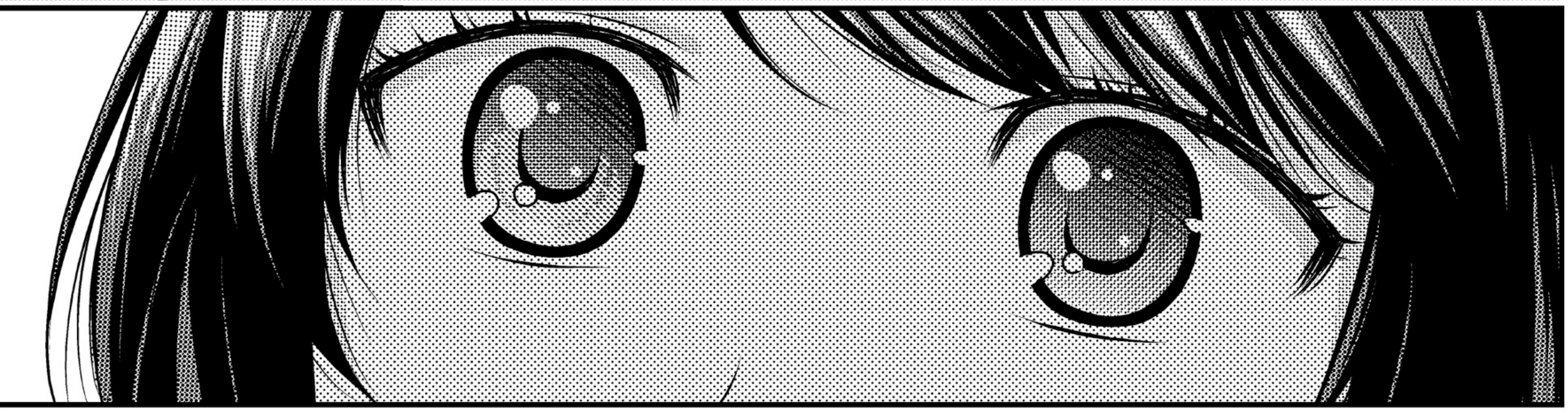
I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT.

NAH.

...ON OUR DAY OFF COMING UP?

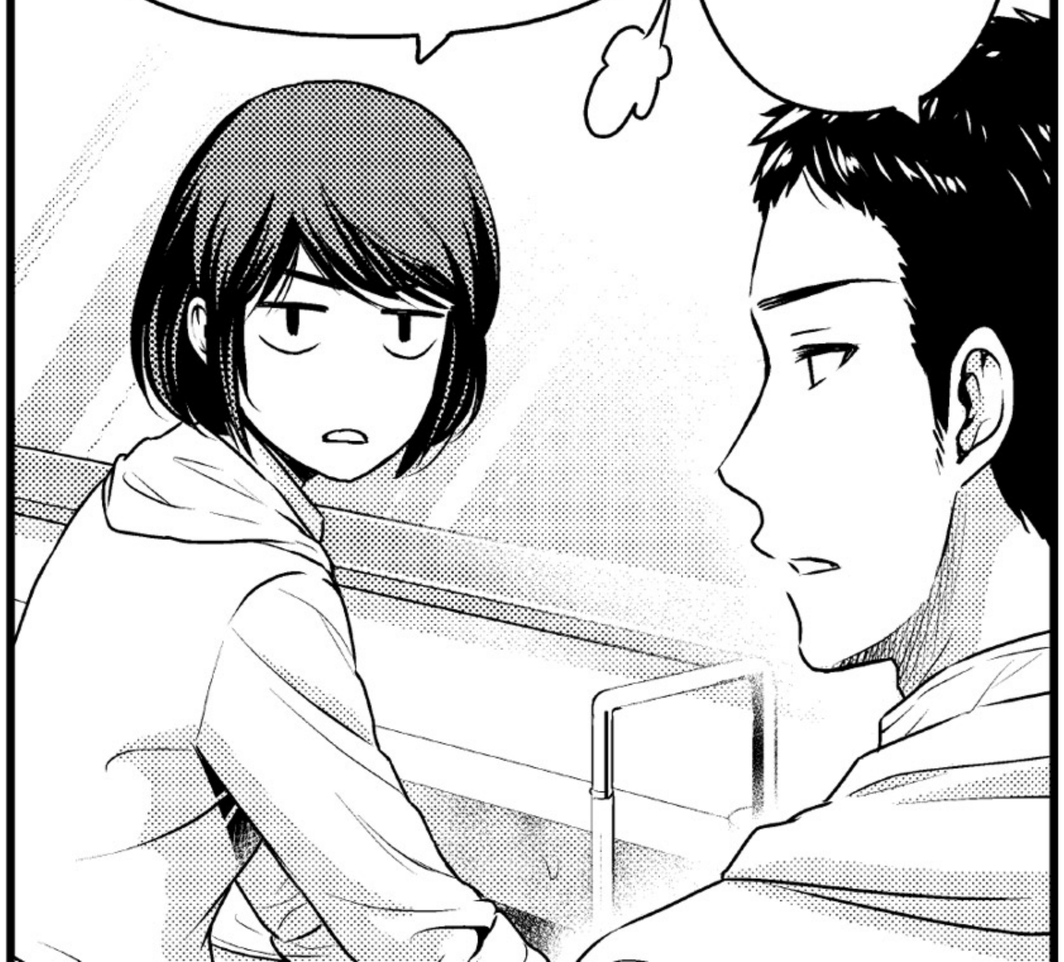
ARE YOU GONNA BE FREE...

CHAPTER 191:
A CROSSROADS OF HAPPINESS









THAT'S PLENTY OF TIME THEN.

WHAT TIME?

WHAT TIME DO YOU PLAN ON GOING?

UHH... AROUND NOON, I GUESS?

I'M SO TIRED.

...

WHY THE HELL ARE WE MEETING UP AT 4 A.M., ANYWAY?

HE TOLD ME TO COME TO THE STATION, BUT THE TRAINS AREN'T EVEN RUNNING YET.

WOBL

WOBL

I WANNA GO HOME AND CRAWL BACK INTO BED...

AND I COULDN'T JUST TURN HIM DOWN WHEN HE SAID IT WAS ABOUT WORK.

THAT DAY

YO.

SORRY TO DRAG YOU OUT HERE SO EARLY.

DON'T WORRY. IT'S HOW I GOT FROM A TO B BACK WHEN I USED TO WORK AROUND HERE.

PLAP

PUT THIS ON AND HOP ON BACK.

SORRY, BUT I DON'T HAVE A CAR.

HUH? A MOTOR-CYCLE?!

HANG ON TIGHT.

VRRUM

HEY! WHERE ARE WE GOING?

I'M SURE YOU CAN GUESS.

WHAT, YOU THINK CHEFS WOULD GO TO AN AMUSE-MENT PARK THIS EARLY?

DO YOU HAVE ONE?

YOU NEED A PASS TO GET INTO THE INNER MARKET THIS EARLY, RIGHT?

TSUKIJI'S* PRETTY CRAZY, HUH?

LOOK AT HOW MANY TOURISTS ARE HERE ALREADY.

A TON OF WHOLE-SALERS WORK WITH GREAT SUPPLIERS.

THERE ARE PLENTY OF PLACES FOR PROS TO SHOP AT OUTSIDE THE INNER MARKET.

*THE LARGEST SEAFOOD MARKET IN THE WORLD, LOCATED IN TOKYO.

HEY, BOSS.

LONG TIME NO SEE.

I WANTED TO EXPAND MY REPERTOIRE.

I WAS SURE YOU'D GO WITH ANOTHER JAPANESE PLACE.

YOU STARTED WORKING AT AN ITALIAN RESTAURANT, RIGHT?

HEY!

IF IT AIN'T KAJI!

450-

HOW YA BEEN, KIDDO?

I'M GLAD YOU ASKED!

SEA BREAM, EH?

HOW'S THE SEA BREAM THIS YEAR?

I GOT SOME BEAUTIES IN TODAY. HAVE A TASTE!

HAGI'S THE HOTSPOT FOR BREAM THIS YEAR.

GLADLY, THANKS.

HERE.

ぱくっ

DON'T YOU THINK THIS WOULD BE GREAT FOR THE FALL CARPACCIO?

IT'S NICE AND FATTY, BUT NOT TOO HEAVY.

TOTAL-LY.

IT'S SOOO GOOD!

AIN'T IT?

OH, MY GOD!

I'M PLANNING TO ASK THE OWNER IF WE CAN USE THE FISH FROM HERE FOR THE FALL MENU.

BUT THIS DEALER'S A CONNOIS-SEUR WHEN IT COMES TO SEA BEAM.

RIGHT NOW, THE OWNER SOURCES EVERYTHING HIMSELF AND ORDERS IN BULK,

...

HEY, TO ANSWER YOUR QUES-TION THE OTHER DAY.

I'M SURE... YEAH.

...EVERY-ONE WILL LOVE IT IF WE USE THIS!

BUT DON'T YOU WANNA SHARE THIS TASTE WITH THE CUS-TOMERS?

IT MIGHT ADD A LITTLE EXTRA WORK,

I MEAN, ALL THAT'S JUST AN AFTER-THOUGHT.

I DON'T THINK YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT DEEP STUFF...

...LIKE DESTINY AND TRUE HAPPINESS OR WHATEVER.

...AND TRY TO BRING A SMILE TO PEOPLE'S FACES?

...TO MAKE THE TASTIEST FOOD WE CAN...

ISN'T IT ENOUGH FOR CHEFS LIKE US...

MM.

GOOD, RIGHT?

BUT...

THAT'S NOT MUCH OF AN ANSWER.

SO, JUST DON'T THINK ABOUT IT?

...

MMM!

...

...YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT.

I AM *NOT* HIS GIRL-FRIEND.

TRYIN' TO SHOW OFF FOR YOUR GIRL-FRIEND OR-

LISTEN TO MR. SMOOTH OVER HERE.

WHOA, WHOA, WHOA.

OH, GOD! REALLY?

HA HA. YEAH, KAJI HERE CAN BE PRETTY HARD ON PEOPLE, INCLUDIN' HIMSELF.

BACK WHEN HE FIRST STARTED COMIN' HERE...

O-OH. GOT-CHA.

YA DON'T HAVE TO CUT ME OFF...

I ALREADY HAVE A MUCH NICER BOY-FRIEND.

にっこり BEAM

あんどう薬局

処方せん受付

I DON'T THINK I'VE HAD AN OMELETTE FROM TSUKIJI BEFORE.

I LIKE HOW IT HAS A TOUCH OF SWEET-NESS.

YUM.

HERE.

AS YOUR BOYFRIEND, IT'S KINDA–

FINE, THEN. WE WON'T GO.

BUT Y'KNOOOW. I'M NOT SURE HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU GOING WITH ANOTHER GUY.

I GUESS IT'S JUST ONE OF THOSE LOCAL PLACES YOU DON'T GO UNLESS YOU HAVE A REASON TO.

LET'S GO TO-GETHER SOME-TIME.

WHAT-EVER.

I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE BACK TO NORMAL.

フッ HA HA

CREEPY CUTE.

YOU SAID I'M CUTE WHEN I'M JEALOUS!

CREEPY?! HOW AM I CREEPY?!

EW, CREEPY.

HEY, DON'T JUST SHRUG IT OFF! TAKE THE BAIT!

REMOVE THE CREEPY PART!

TALK ABOUT MIXED SIGNALS.

FIRST YOU CALL ME CREEPY, THEN–

YOU BET.

NEVER BEEN HAPPI-ER.

HEY.

...

ARE YOU ...

...HAPPY BEING WITH ME?



GOD...

SHE LOOKS SO ADORABLE.

RUI.

...YOU JUST WANNA LOOK?

NO WAY.

C'MERE.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

LEMME GET A GOOD LOOK AT YOU.

MM

AH

NO WAY.

OH, PLEASE.

SO, YOU *DO* JUST WANT ME FOR MY BODY?

A SEXY ONE.

WHAT KINDA DREAM?

I DREAMED ABOUT YOU THE OTHER DAY.

BUT...

...I GET LONELY IF WE DON'T CUDDLE FOR A WHILE.

JUST FOR A LITTLE BIT. DON'T WORRY.

AS SOON AS SOMEONE KNOCKS, WE CAN JUST PULL A...

I DUNNO ...

WHAT IF SOMEONE WALKS IN ON US?

IS IT OKAY ...

...IF I TOUCH YOU FOR A BIT?

ヒュッ WHIF

そSIDLE おお…

…PART.

HWHISH

HOLD UP! HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN THERE?!

HA, HA, HA! S-SORRY! FORGOT TO KNOCK!

IT'S OKAY. I'M SORRY, TOO...

SORRY IT TOOK ME SO LONG TO VISIT. *AND* FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR FUN TIME.

HONESTLY, I'M JUST GLAD IT WAS YOU AND NOT OUR PARENTS.

THAT WAS CARE-LESS.

TSUKIKO TOLD ME HINA'S BEEN LOOKING AFTER YOU, SO I JUST KINDA WALTZED IN.

OH!

YEAH, I SAT DOWN WITH HER BACK IN SPRING.

SHE ACTUALLY MADE A RESER-VATION AT MY MAIN RESTAU-RANT.

HINA-NEE'S AT HOME RIGHT NOW. RUI'S TAK-ING OVER FOR HER TONIGHT.

HAVE YOU... MET WITH HINA-NEE YET?

BUT THINKING ABOUT IT AS AN ADULT,

I REALIZED YOU WERE PROBABLY TORN BETWEEN ALL SORTS OF THINGS.

AND...NOW I CAN KIND OF UNDERSTAND WHY YOU CAVED IN BACK THEN.

TO BE HONEST, BACK WHEN I WAS IN SCHOOL,

I HATED YOUR GUTS FOR RUNNING OUT ON US FOR ANOTHER WOMAN.

IT WAS AWKWARD AT FIRST, BUT THEN SHE SAID...

HUH ?!

OH... I SEE.

REALLY ?!

ER...

TRY TO SYMPATHIZE AND HAVE THE RUG PULLED OUT FROM UNDER YOU, HUH? BEEN THERE.

SHE LOOKED LIKE SHE WASN'T SURE HOW TO REACT.

...WAS ACTUALLY BECAUSE OF DEBT, NOT AN AFFAIR.

...THE REASON I LEFT YOUR MOTHER ...

HINA...

AND I'VE ALREADY TOLD TSUKIKO AND RUI THIS, BUT...

I'M SO SORRY...

...FOR ALL THE GRIEF I'VE CAUSED.

REALLY, THOUGH. I HAVE TO SAY ...

...I DON'T KNOW HOW I CAN EVER REPAY YOU, NATSUO-KUN.

THANK YOU SO MUCH...

...FOR SAVING MY DAUGHTER'S LIFE!

NO PROB-LEM.

SHE MEANS A LOT TO ME, TOO.

I'M GLAD TO HEAR HIS WOUND'S HEALING NICELY.

WHERE WERE YOU AT THE TIME?

A HOTEL IN NEW YORK.

WHEN I FIRST HEARD THE NEWS, I WAS SO FLABBERGASTED THAT IT TOOK A SEC FOR MY BRAIN TO CATCH UP.



WHAT'S UP?

AH, BUT ...

HMM.

...

SAY, RUI...

YOU WERE AWAY FOR A WHILE THIS TIME, HUH?

HM? OH, YEAH... THERE WAS A TON OF STUFF I HAD TO GET HAMMERED OUT.

LISTEN.

THE RESTAURANT'S BEEN DOING REALLY WELL THANKS TO YOU AND THE CREW.

AND, WELL ...

...I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D BE INTERESTED IN TRAINING OVERSEAS ...

...TO GET READY TO PREPARE TO OPEN UP ANOTHER SHOP.

DOME GIRL



Rui Tachibana

Profile

Birthday: September 5th
Blood Type: A
Height: 155cm
Hobbies: Reading, watching documentaries
Strengths: Cooking, skiing, ice skating, kendama
Weaknesses: Thunder and lightning, anything horror-related, prank TV shows, slugs

Favorite Foods:
Pasta, omurice, Natsuo's yaki udon, tiramisu
Favorite Fusic:
Miyuki Nakajima, Tatsuro Yamashita, Masashi Sada, Flower Companyz, Nagisa Kuroki
Favorite Books:
The works of Miyuki Miyabe, Natsuhiko Kyogoku, Kanae Minato, Keigo Higashino, and Otaro Maijo

Kei Sasuga's Comments

Rui is the character that has grown, or at least changed, the most since the beginning of the story. Though she struggled to fit in anywhere before meeting Natsuo, while with him she has learned to better express her emotions, and become more sympathetic towards others. She's the type of person who's usually so hard to read that when she does laugh out loud, it really makes you feel good.

マスク

CHAPTER 192: THE STATE OF LOVE

NO, NO, NO!

I'M NOT READY FOR THAT KINDA RISK YET!

YOU'RE OPENING ANOTHER BRANCH OVERSEAS ?!

HUH ?

ACTU-ALLY,

I GOT AN OFFER FROM THE COLTON TOKYO.

...

SHINK

FAILURE

HERE IN JAPAN, TOO.

FIGURES... YOU'VE ALREADY HAD A STORE GO UNDER BEFORE.

APPARENTLY, ONE OF THE HOTEL'S RESTAURANT CONSULTANTS HAS BEEN COMING IN REGULARLY SINCE SUMMER.

I GUESS HE HEARD OUR VICHYSSOISE AND SUMMER PASTA WERE GOOD AND DECIDED TO CHECK US OUT...

I ASKED MYSELF THE SAME THING!

"WHAT DO THEY WANT WITH A TINY JOINT LIKE OURS?!"

THAT SUPER RITZY HOTEL? WHY US?!

WHAT...? THE COLTON TOKYO?!

OH...

SO, WHY THE OVERSEAS TRAINING ?

I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO PAY OFF LIKE *THIS*, THOUGH.

HEH HEH.

THAT'S GREAT! SOUNDS LIKE BEING PARTICULAR ABOUT FLAVOR PAID OFF.

IN NEW YORK ?

MY BUSINESS TRIP WAS ALL TO PREPARE FOR THAT TRANSI-TION.

YUP.

THE IDEA WOULD BE TO SHOOT FOR A MORE HIGH-GRADE, SOPHISTICATED RESTAURANT THAN THE CASUAL OPERATION WE RUN NOW.

FROM WHAT THE CON-SULTANT TOLD ME,

CLASSY HOTELS WANT THEIR ON-SITE RESTAURANT'S SERVICE TO HAVE A CERTAIN LEVEL OF REFINEMENT.

THE CHEF I TRAINED UNDER IN ITALY YEARS AGO IS THE MASTER CHEF AT A HOTEL IN NEW YORK NOW.

I PLAN TO SEND A HANDFUL PEOPLE FROM BOTH BRANCHES THERE TO WORK UNDER HIM.

IF WE'RE AIMING TO RUN A FIRST-CLASS RESTAURANT, I WANT THEM TO LEARN FROM THE BEST.

THEY'LL BE THE CREW RESPON-SIBLE FOR THE HOTEL BRANCH.

WHEN YOU GET BACK, I PLAN TO PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF PASTA, RUI.

PASTA?!

I'M SO IN!

HOW LONG WILL I BE GONE?

LIKE TWO WEEKS OR SO?

NO.

IT'LL BE FOR AT LEAST A YEAR.

HUH?

A YEAR?

YEAH... THAT'S WHY I WASN'T SURE IF I SHOULD BRING IT UP NOW.

I MEAN, NATSUO-KUN'S STILL IN THE HOSPITAL AND ALL...

IT WON'T BE ANY-THING LIKE THE CRASH COURSE YOU TOOK IN WINTER.

YOU'LL BE IN THE KITCHEN, LEARNING ON THE JOB.

CAN I...

...HAVE SOME TIME TO THINK IT OVER?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

カラ RATL
ラ・・・

I WAS GETTING ANTSY.

WHAT?

YOU WANNA PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF?

HEY. TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH.

HUH?

OH, UM... I WAS TALKING TO DAD ABOUT WORK.

YEAH.

HEY...

NOTHING, I JUST...

...THOUGHT I'D ASK WHILE WE'RE MAKING OUT.

'ZAT RIGHT?

WHAT'S UP THIS TIME?

DO YOU...

...WANNA BE WITH ME FOREVER, NATSUO?

OF COURSE I DO.

DO YOU EVEN NEED TO ASK?

I SEE ...

NO, REALLY. WHAT'S UP?

SOME-THING ON YOUR MIND?

NO.

IT'S NOTHING.

CLOSE

TACHI-
BANA.

OH... YOU, TOO?

ABOUT THE TRAIN-ING.

DID THE OWNER TELL YOU?

IS THIS PLACE GONNA BE OKAY IF THAT MANY PEOPLE LEAVE?

HE SAID HE'LL HIRE REPLACE-MENTS.

YEAH. I GUESS HE ALSO APPROACHED TOCHIDA-SAN, THE *PRIMO PIATTO* CHEF, AND AWAKURA-SAN, INCHARGE OF *DOLCE*.

SO?

HAVE YOU GIVEN HIM AN ANSWER YET?

KAJITA ...

I'M GUESS-ING YOU'RE GOING THEN?

YUP.

WHAT'S THERE TO EVEN HESITATE ABOUT?

ON THE FENCE?

I HAVE MY REA-SONS!

...

NOT YET.

TO BE HONEST, I'M STILL ON THE FENCE...

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE ACTUALLY SATISFIED WITH MAKING SALAD AND APPETIZERS FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

YOU UNDER-STAND, DON'T YOU?

THIS IS A HUGE OPPOR-TUNITY.

I HEAR THE PAY'S BETTER OVER THERE, EVEN FOR NEWBIES.

I WANNA MAKE AS MUCH AS I CAN TO PUT MY BROTHER AND SISTER THROUGH SCHOOL.

BUT MOST IMPOR-TANTLY,

I'LL GET TO BETTER MYSELF AS A CHEF.

I DUNNO WHAT'S HOLDING YOU BACK,

BUT I KNOW YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT YOUR JOB AND COOKING.

SO...

IF YOU'RE NOT SURE,

THEN JUST COME.

"Luck is in the hole"

...HONE OUR SKILLS TOGETH-ER.

LET'S ...

...

OH, RIGHT. MY BAD.

YOU'RE LOOKING WELL. HOW'S THE RECOVERY COMING ALONG?

GOOD.

I ACTUALLY PUMPED MY FIST WHEN I SAW ON THE NEWS THAT YOU REGAINED CONSCIOUS-NESS.

THANK GOD YOU CAME BACK TO LIFE!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "CAME BACK TO LIFE"? HE DIDN'T *DIE*, SUSUKINO-SAN.

SUSUKINO-SAN AND URUSHIBARA-SAN HELPED ME OUT A TON DURING THAT WHOLE MESS.

MY STEP-SISTER'S TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU TWO.

GLAD TO HEAR IT!

THE DOCTOR SAID MY WOUND'S HEALING FINE, SO I SHOULD GET OUT OF HERE ON SCHEDULE.

...ISN'T SOME-THING JUST ANYONE COULD DO.

JUMPING IN FRONT OF A KNIFE TO PROTECT SOMEONE...

OH, WE DIDN'T DO MUCH...

YOU'RE THE REAL HERO HERE.

YES.

I PLAN TO ONCE HE'S RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL.

WILL YOU BE COMING BACK TO WORK SOON, TACHI-BANA-SAN?

I WISH I HAD A BOY-FRIEND LIKE YOU!

SORRY, JUST IGNORE HER.

NO KIDDING! YOU'RE LIKE THE ONLY GUY IN WORLD WHO HAS THAT KINDA GUTS!

ER... IT'S COOL. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT.

GETTING RELEASED MEANS I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF AGAIN, ANYWAY.

NO BUTS! I INSIST!

OH, BUT,

EVEN AFTER I GO BACK TO WORK...

...I'LL STILL MAKE TIME TO HELP YOU OUT AROUND THE HOUSE AND STUFF,

SO DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT A THING.

SO...

YOU NEED TO TAKE IT EASY FOR A WHILE AFTER YOU GET OUT.

YOU HEARD THE DOCTOR.

SHE MIGHT BUY YOU WHAT-EVER YOU WANT IF YOU PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT!

SHE'S RIGHT. YOU SHOULD LET YOUR BIG SISTER SPOIL YOU WHILE YOU HAVE THE CHANCE.

...AND HELP NURSE YOU BACK TO HEALTH WITH A BALANCED DIET!

...I'M GONNA START TAK-ING COOKING LESSONS...

NOW I'M REALLY WORRIED!

THAT'S BASICALLY EXTORTION ...

明治大学

SIGN: MEIJI UNIVERSITY

I WONDER WHAT HER MAJOR IS.

HEY, CHECK OUT THE CUTIE BY THE WINDOW.

GO TALK TO HER, DUDE.

WHAT? YOU GO!

SIIGH はあああ

ビクッ

IT'S BASICALLY JUST IMPROV.

I HAVE NO PROBLEM BEING THOUGHTFUL AND WITTY WHEN I'M ACTING.

AND YET ...

WHAT'S WITH THE HUGE SIGH?

WHY DOES IT...

...ALWAYS TURN OUT LIKE THAT?

...AND MAKE MYSELF LOOK LIKE A SPAZ?!

...WHY DO I ALWAYS FALL APART IN FRONT OF FUJII-KUN...

I JUST WANT TO LOOK GOOD FOR HIM...

...!

HEY, NETTY. HOW'D IT GO WITH THAT GUY?

IT'S RUDE TO HARBOR THESE KINDS OF FEELINGS FOR HIM.

BESIDES, FUJII-KUN ALREADY HAS A GIRL-FRIEND.

SLOW DOWN, GIRL!

3" WHIP WHIP WHIP 3" 3"

WHAT AM I DAY-DREAMING ABOUT?!

AAAAH!

YEAH... I THINK WE DODGED A BULLET.

GOD, WHAT A BITCH.

I HAVE MY EYE ON HATANAKA-KUN NOW.

HUH? DOESN'T HE HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND?

YOU MEAN OKAZAKI-KUN?

WE HAD SEX A FEW TIMES,

BUT I KINDA HAD MY FILL, SO I DELETED HIM FROM LINE.

IS THAT NICK-NAME SERI-OUSLY STICK-ING?

WELL, IT'S PERFECT FOR YOU. SLUTTY NENE, NETTY.

RUDE... BUT AT LEAST IT SOUNDS CUTE.

I GUESS IT'S OKAY THEN.

SO WHAT?

IT'S NOT LIKE THEY *MARRIED* OR ANY-THING.

IT'S TOTALLY NATURAL TO HAVE A CHANGE OF HEART WHEN SOMEONE BETTER COMES ALONG.

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH IT.

THROW ENOUGH MUD AT THE WALL AND SOME OF IT WILL STICK.

I THINK YOU THROW A LITTLE *TOO* MUCH.

THE FACT THAT YOU CAN SAY THAT *AND* ALWAYS CATCH YOUR PREY IS WHAT'S REALLY IMPRESSIVE.

...

BE RIGHT BACK. BATH-ROOM.

MAYBE YOU NEED TO LOWER YOUR STANDARDS.

GONNA PULL SOMEONE INTO THE STALL FOR A QUICKIE?

UGH, SHUT UP.

SERI-ZAWA-SAN?

UM... I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.

KUZU-OKA-SAN!

...

...TEACH ME HOW TO SEDUCE MEN?

WILL YOU ...

HEE
HEE
HEE
HEE
UM...
THAT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE A JOKE.
AH HA HA HA!
ふぅ
P
F
ふ
THUD
バタンッ
YOU REALLY DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
YA
I'M SERIO-
NK
!
...WHILE I'M PLAIN, BUT GUYS CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF ME.
WHY YOU'RE PRETTY, YET STUCK SINGLE ...

CHAPTER 193: LOVE LESSON

IT MIGHT JUST BE QUICKER FOR YOU TO LEARN FIRST-HAND.

RUB

ESPE-CIALLY SINCE YOU'RE SUCH A PRUDE.

I MEAN, YOU'RE A VIRGIN, RIGHT?

I CAN TEACH YOU HOW TO SEDUCE GUYS,

BUT ARE YOU PREPARED TO USE *THIS?*

AAH!

HHH

TWITCH

AH...

IS IT FOR YOUR ROLE?

BUT WHY DO YOU WANNA BECOME A SEDUC-TRESS ALL OF A SUDDEN?

...

HA HA. ♡

THOSE ARE SOME CUTE MOANS.

OH, GOD. I THINK I FOUND A NEW FETISH.

ズルルルル

SLUMP

OR DO YOU WANNA MAKE FUJII-KUN FALL FOR YOU?

FUJII-KUN, HUH? I TRIED WORKING MY MAGIC ON HIM, BUT HIS GUARD'S ACTUALLY PRETTY TIGHT.

YOU TRIED TO SEDUCE HIM?!

LIKE I SAID, IT DIDN'T WORK.

BUUUT, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE HIM CRACK IF I TOOK MY TIME.

OH, WAS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET?

THE WAY YOU LOOK AT HIM IS A DEAD GIVEAWAY, Y'KNOW.

FWIP

!

M-

MY CROTCH?

UH-HUH.

IT'S ALL ABOUT FLAUNTING YOUR CROTCH AT THE RIGHT TIME.

TAKE ME FOR EXAM-PLE.

IT'S NOT LIKE GUYS WERE ALWAYS CRAZY ABOUT ME, Y'KNOW.

OH, WOW! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF IT!

MREE

MEE

MEEN

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

NO PROBLEM. THERE'S A TON MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM.

NENE!

DAI-CHAN FROM ACROSS THE STREET BROUGHT US ANOTHER WATER-MELON.

HUH...

THANKS FOR THE MELON YESTER-DAY.

MAKE SURE YOU THANK HIM THE NEXT TIME YOU SEE HIM.

JEWELUNA

LOVE

OH.

OKAY...

DAISUKE!

TELL THAT TO MY GRANDMA.

I ONLY BROUGHT IT OVER 'CAUSE SHE TOLD ME TO.

YEAH?

IT WAS REALLY SWEET.

MY FAMILY LOVES WATERMELON. WE ATE LIKE HALF OF IT IN ONE SITTING.

NO WAY! HOW DO THEY KNOW EACH OTHER?

I HEARD IT FROM HIROYA, SO YOU CAN BET IT'S LEGIT.

I GUESS THEY WERE ON THE SPORTS FESTIVAL COMMITTEE TOGETHER.

DAISUKE HAS A CRUSH ON A THIRD-YEAR.

HEY, GET THIS.

HOW FAR'D YOU GET THROUGH DRAGON CHRONICLE?

MORN-IN'!

AW, MAN...

OH... I PASSED OUT RIGHT AFTER DINNER LAST NIGHT. I HAVEN'T TOUCHED IT YET.

BUT I BET SHE ALREADY HAS A BOY-FRIEND, HUH?

MM-HM. HE'S THE CAPTAIN OF THE SOCCER TEAM.

OOF. DAISUKE DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE.

POOR GUY.

GOT ANY PICS OF HER?

YEAH, I MADE HIM SEND ME ONE.

WHAAAT? SHE'S SUPER CUTE!

NO WONDER HE LIKES HER. TYPICAL.

I KNOW, RIGHT? GUYS ARE SO SHALLOW.

DON'T YOU THINK?

HUH?!

THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? ARE YOU STUPID?

WELL, DON'T YOU WANT ONE?

HEY...

BUT YOUR CRUSH ALREADY HAS A BOYFRIEND, RIGHT?

WHO TOLD YOU THAT? 'SIDES, IT'S NOT LIKE I WANNA GO OUT WITH JUST *ANYONE*.

NO, SE-RIOUSLY, WHERE ARE YOU GETTING ALL THIS FROM?!

I CAN BE YOUR GIRLFRIEND IF YOU WANT.

STILL...

I'LL PASS.

YOU'RE NOT MY TYPE ANYWAY.

AND IT'S NOT THAT FUN HANG-ING OUT WITH YOU, EITHER.

WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE WE WERE LITTLE KIDS. THERE'S NO WAY I COULD SEE YOU AS GIRLFRIEND MATERIAL.

IT'D BE ONE THING IF THIS WAS A MANGA AND YOU WERE MY SUPER CUTE CHILDHOOD FRIEND OR SOMETHING...

NEVER GONNA HAPPEN.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, DAISUKE?

HM? WHERE'S NENE?

SHE SAID SHE WASN'T HUNGRY.

KANAN AIZAWA?

I LIKE MEI MORI.

YIKES. WE'VE GOT A FREAK OVER HERE!

LET'S HEAD TO THE MUSIC ROOM, NENE.

AHH. GOTCHA.

I'M A KANAN AIZAWA KINDA GUY.

HMM.

I SEE YOU'RE A MAN OF CULTURE AS WELL.

I'M HOME!

SOME CELEB-RITY?

NO, WHO'S THAT?

BEATS ME.

HEY, SATOMI. HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF KANAN AIZAWA?

藍沢カナン

KANAN AIZAWA

Every guy's fantasy brought to life!

Sexy fitness coach...

!

5 Kanan Aizawa in SENSATIONAL POV SITUATIONS

Classic Situations

鉄板シチュエーション

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SAMPLE VIDEO

some content may differ from the product description

WHAT ?!

SHE'S A PORN ACTRESS ?!

TAP

MM-HM. SHE'S BEEN ODDLY FOCUSED ON HER STUDIES LATELY.

IS NENE HITTING THE BOOKS ALREADY?

AH!

OH, GOD.

MMF.

AAH!

SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO GET HER HOMEWORK DONE EARLY.

OH...
MY
BAD.

I TRIED CALLING YOU FROM THE FRONT DOOR, BUT YOU WOULDN'T ANSWER.

WHO SAID YOU COULD COME INTO MY ROOM?

W-
WAIT!

DON'T PEEP ON ME, YOU PERV!

RIGH
?

WHOA!

YOU SCARED THE CRAP OUTTA ME.

WHAT DO YOU WANT ?

YOU COULD'VE JUST TEXTED ME, Y'KNOW.

...

HEY.

REMEMBER WHEN YOU SAID YOU COULDN'T SEE ME AS GIRLFRIEND MATERIAL?

WELL, WHAT IF...

...I DO THIS?

...YOU'RE NOT ATTRACTED TO ME AT ALL?

CAN YOU STILL SAY...

AFTER THAT, EVERY-THING WENT EXACTLY AS I PLANNED.

EVEN THOUGH HE SAID HE WASN'T INTERESTED IN ME IN THE SLIGHTEST,

HE ENDED UP FALLING FOR ME DEEPER AND DEEPER.

THAT'S WHEN IT HIT ME.

THE TRICK TO STEALING SOME-ONE'S HEART...

...IS TO GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT...

...WHEN THEY WANT IT THE MOST.

YOU CAN'T LET YOUR EGO GET IN THE WAY.

LETTING YOUR-SELF GET EMBAR-RASSED,

WONDER-ING WHY YOU'RE GOING SO FAR,

OR WHAT YOU'LL DO IF YOU CREEP HIM OUT WON'T GET YOU ANYWHERE.

YOU JUST HAVE TO IGNORE THAT LITTLE VOICE INSIDE YOUR HEAD...

TALKING TO HIM WHEN HE LOOKS BORED...

CHEERING UP HIM WHEN HE'S DOWN,

...AND FOCUS ON THE GUY'S FEELINGS.

YOU HAVE TO TELL HIM WHAT HE WANTS TO HEAR AT THE RIGHT TIME.

YOU CAN'T JUST SPREAD YOUR LEGS AND HOPE FOR THE BEST.

ALSO, TRY TO ACT CHEERFUL AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

MOST PEOPLE PREFER BEING AROUND A SMILING UGGO THAN A BITCH-FACED HOTTIE.

BUT I WANT MY FIRST TIME TO BE WITH SOMEONE I LOVE...!

I KNOW I'M THE ONE WHO ASKED,

I'M NOT SAYING YOU HAVE TO SCREW THE FIRST GUY YOU SEE.

I...

UM...

HUH ?!

WITH THAT IN MIND, WHY DON'T YOU GO TRY HITTING ON SOMEONE?

BUT...

IT FEELS WRONG ...

...LEADING SOMEONE ON WHEN I'M NOT EVEN INTERESTED IN THEM.

WHY NOT?

THAT'S HOW I SCREWED MYSELF OVER THE FIRST FEW TIMES.

ESPECIALLY WITH GUYS WHO ARE TAKEN. YOU'D JUST BE FORCING YOUR FEELINGS ON THEM.

THEN I GUESS YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO TRY ON FUJII-KUN.

THE TRICK IS TO MAKE THEM THINK YOU'RE INTER-ESTED...

...WITHOUT BEING TOO OBVIOUS ABOUT IT.

LIKE A BUTTERFLY THAT GETS CLOSE, ONLY TO FLY JUST OUT OF REACH.

BUT YOU CAN'T BE THE FIRST ONE TO SAY "I LIKE YOU."

IF YOU CAN PULL THAT OFF,

GUYS WILL THINK ABOUT YOU WAY MORE THAN THEIR GIRL-FRIENDS.

I SEE.

THAT'S KIND OF A LOT TO TAKE IN...

...BUT I'LL TRY!

ALSO...

LEMME SEE YOUR PHONE.

TH-

THANK YOU!

FOR EVERY-THING!

UM... WHY WERE THEY BOTH IN THE STALL?

YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN THE MOOD WILL HIT,

SO MAKE SURE YOU ALWAYS WEAR SEXY UNDIES AND KEEP YOUR HEDGES TRIMMED.

HERE, I RECOM-MEND THIS LINGERIE SHOP.

UHH.

YEP, I THINK SO.

GOT EVERY-THING?

YES, SIR.

THANKS AGAIN.

TAKE CARE, AND TRY TO AVOID THINGS THAT MIGHT AGGRAVATE THE WOUND FOR A WHILE.

OH.

ALREADY PACKED AND READY TO GO, I SEE.

FUJII-SAN.

WE CAN ALWAYS COME BACK IF WE NEED TO.

I'M ALREADY GETTING AN ULCER!

DON'T WORRY! I'LL MAKE SURE HE GETS A BALANCED DIET!

SEN-SEI!

THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING.

TA-DA!

SOME-WHAT FANCY EGG TOFU!

IT LOOKS NOR-MAL!

ALL I DID WAS PLATE IT UP, THOUGH...

NO SWEAT. THAT'S TOTALLY FINE BY ME.

HUH?

NOTH-ING. NEVER MIND.

I'LL HEAD BACK TO THE APARTMENT TOMORROW.

NAH, THAT'S OKAY.

WANT US TO GRAB YOU SOME CLOTHES FROM YOUR APART-MENT?

YOU'LL BE COMMUTING TO SCHOOL FROM HERE FOR NOW, RIGHT?

I MEAN, IT'S REASSURING HAVING EVERYONE AROUND...

...BUT IT'D BE KINDA ROUGH GOING TO SCHOOL FROM HERE.

I DON'T WANNA GET STUCK ON A PACKED TRAIN AND EAT AN ELBOW TO THE GUT.

SO SOON? MAYBE YOU SHOULD STAY HERE FOR A WHILE...

WHAT? TOMOR-ROW?!

HEH HEH... I HAD A FEELING YOU'D SAY THAT, NATSUO-KUN.

?

IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, I'LL GO STRAIGHT TO THE HOSPITAL.

BUT...

I SUP-POSE THAT'S TRUE.

UH-UH! I DON'T WANT YOUR MONEY.

I'LL PAY YOU BACK!

AND I BOUGHT YOU A NEW WASHING MACHINE! IT'S ALL SET!

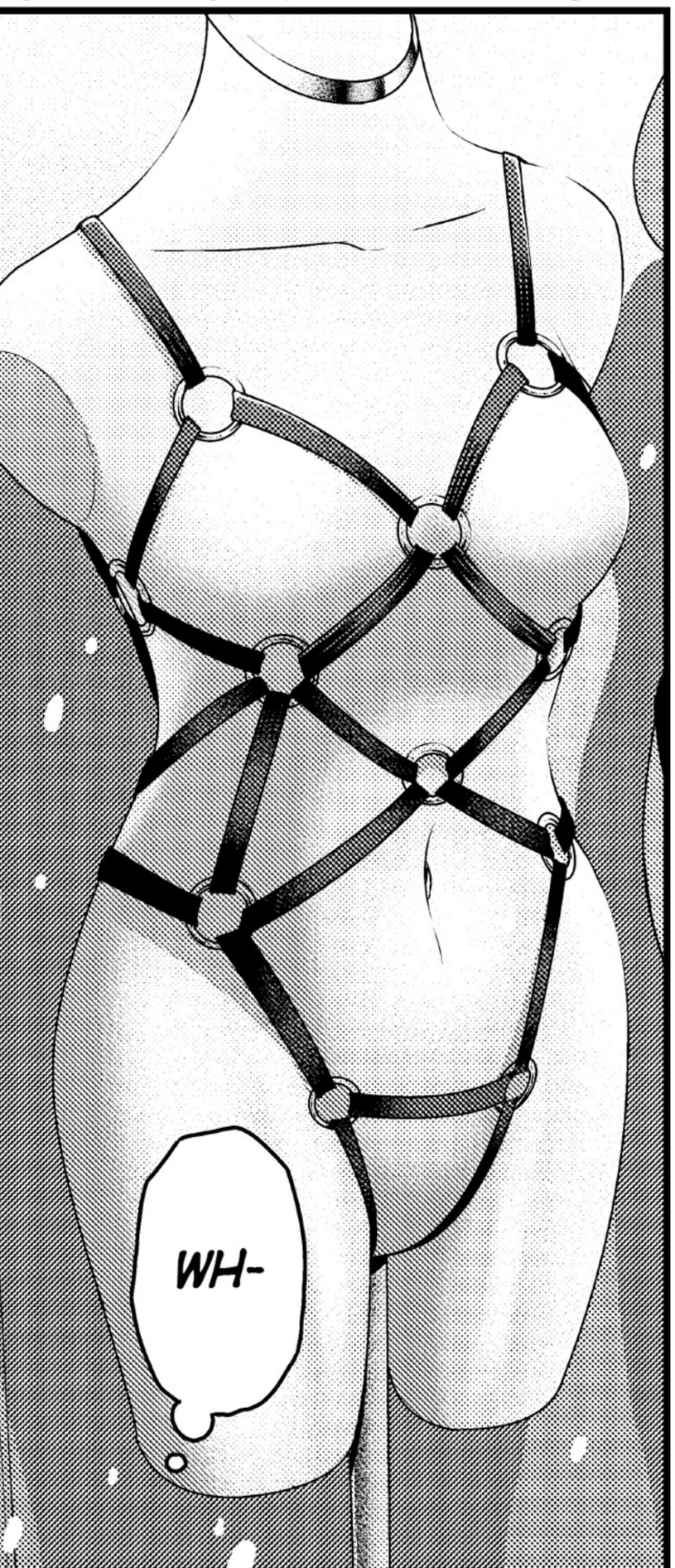
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT!

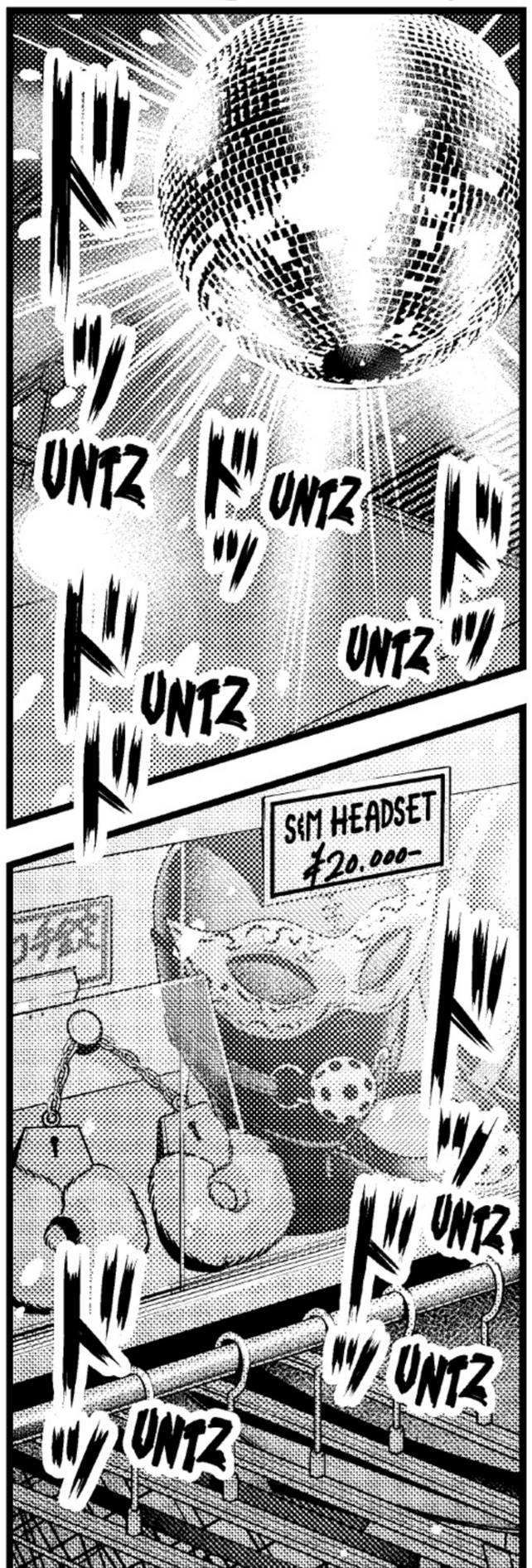
THAT'S WHY I WENT AHEAD AND WASHED AAALL YOUR DIRTY LAUNDRY!

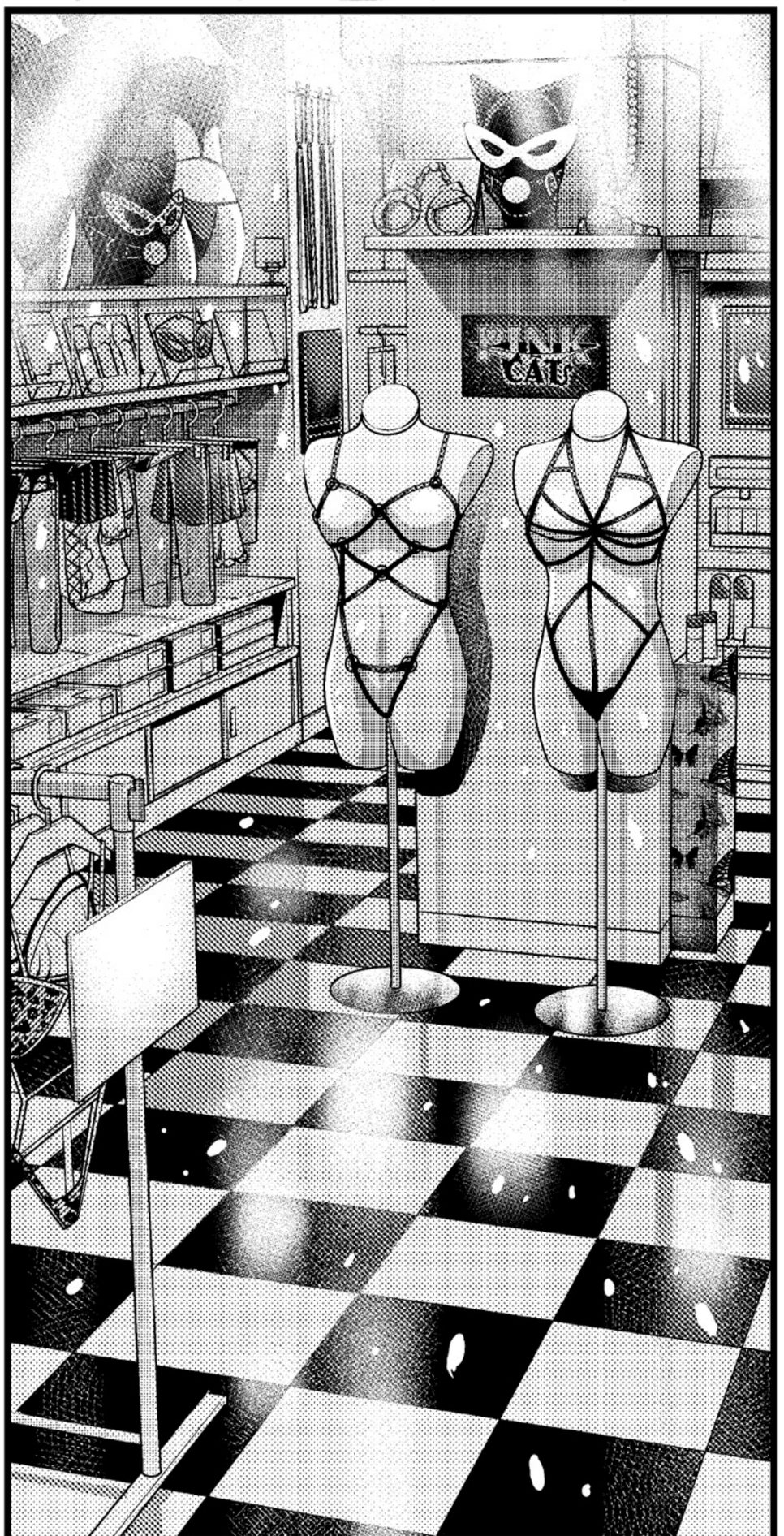
hool hool café
Shinjuku East Exit Branch
Mama's Reformation
MMM.
THE MAP SAYS IT SHOULD BE AROUND HERE...
ラムトラ
OH!
HERE IT IS! I ALMOST MISSED IT.
HUH.
SO, IT'S DOWN-STAIRS ...
BUT WHAT KIND OF LINGERIE STORE IS IN A BACK ALLEY?
PINK CATS... PINK CATS...
PINK CATS
WAIT...
THIS IS *LINGE-RIE?*

CHAPTER 194:
SEXY UNDIES ARE A LADY'S BATTLE ARMOR









I FIGURED SHE MEANT SOMETHING... Y'KNOW, CUTER.

THIS IS THE KIND OF LINGERIE KUZUOKA-SAN WAS TALKING ABOUT?

EVERY-THING'S ON FULL DISPLAY!

WHY EVEN WEAR UNDERWEAR AT THIS POINT?

IF I MAKE A MOVE ON HIM WEARING THIS,

HE'LL THINK I'M SOME KIND OF CRAZY SEX FIEND!

ドン BUMP ワレッ

AAAAH!

SELF-CENSORED

KBOOM

WOBL フラ

WOBL フラ...

DON'T THEY HAVE ANYTHING A LITTLE MORE NORMAL...?

E-EX-CUSE ME...

SORRY, HON. ARE YOU OKAY?

OH, THIS SECTION ACTUALLY HAS SOME STUFF WITH CLOTH...

DID YOU GET LOST AND WANDER IN HERE?

YOU NEVER KNOW. SOMETIMES IT'S THE PRIM AND PROPER GIRLS WHO ARE THE BIGGEST FREAKS.

...OH?

WE DON'T SEE YOUR TYPE AROUND HERE TOO OFTEN.

OOPSIE. SORRY, I SHOULDN'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS.

THANK YOU...

UM...

D-DO YOU TWO COME HERE OFTEN?

FIRST TIME IN A SEX SHOP?

YES.

I ASKED MY CLASSMATE FOR TIPS ON HOW TO FLIRT WITH THE BOY I LIKE.

SHE POINTED ME TOWARD THIS STORE.

LIKE TODAY!

WE'RE SHOPPING FOR STAGE OUTFITS!

YOU COULD SAY WE'RE REGULARS.

WE OFTEN COME HERE TO LOOK FOR COSTUMES.

LET'S FIND YOU SOMETHING THAT'LL MELT HIS BRAIN!

DON'T YOU WORRY, HON. WE'LL HELP YOU PICK OUT THE PERFECT PAIR OF UNDIES.

I JUST GRAB 'EM BY THE JUNK AND WAIT FOR A YES OR NO. BOOM, DONE!

OMIGOD, DID YOU HEAR THAT? "HOW TO FLIRT WITH MY CRUSH." HOW ADORABLE!

YES BAD!

NOT BAD.

IT'S NOT COVERING ANYTHING!

IT'S FRILLY AND DAINTY, PERFECT FOR A LITTLE LADY LIKE YOU! ♡

FOR STARTERS, HOW ABOUT THIS?

UGH.

YOU THINK SO?

WIMP

SHINK

SHEESH. TALK ABOUT WISHY-WASHY.

OH! HERE'S AN OPTION.

BUT I'D LOOK LIKE A TOTAL WEIRDO IF I STRIPPED DOWN TO THAT!

THAT'S THE BEST PART!

THERE AREN'T MANY GUYS OUT THERE WHO COULD RESIST *THIS.*

I BEG TO DIF-FER.

AND YOU SEE THEM ALL THE TIME IN PORN, SO I DON'T THINK HE'D BE TOO SURPRISED.

AN ULTRA MICRO BIKINI!!

IT'S *TECH-NICALLY* COVERING THE GOODS.

WHAT A PICKY PATTY.

I JUST WANT SOMETHING THAT LOOKS LIKE CUTE, *NORMAL* LINGERIE...

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A LITTLE PLAIN?

OH... THIS MIGHT WORK.

THEN HOW ABOUT THIS?

HEY, BOSS. GET ANYTHING NEW IN?

THEN AGAIN, IT MIGHT JUST LOOK BETTER COMPARED TO EVERY-THING ELSE I'VE SEEN SO FAR...

WHY DON'T YOU TRY THEM ON?

N-N-N-NARA-SAN?!

WHAT, IS HE A FRIEND OF YOURS?

DO YOU HAVE THEM IN OTHER COLORS?

WHIP

THEY DO FEEL NICE. YOU CAN TELL THEY'RE TOP QUALITY.

WOW.

SM MASTER CLUB

YOU BET! WE JUST GOT SOME GREAT BONDAGE ROPES!

THEY'RE MADE WITH SILK, SO THEY'RE GENTLE ON THE SKIN.

HEY, HAND-SOME. CARE TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN WITH ME?

SURE. OH, BUT I'M A MASOCHIST. IS THAT OKAY?

PER-FECT.

HE'S MY CLUB'S PRESI-DENT...

HMM.

GO GET HIM, GIRL!

J- JUST THIS, PLEASE ...

SNEAK コソッ…

SURE THING.

SORRY, MAY I BORROW YOUR SCARF FOR A SECOND?

OOH. HE LOOKS NUMMY.

ポツ
PLUNK

PHEW

BWAH

BOOOSH

IGNORE THAT LITTLE VOICE INSIDE YOUR HEAD.

TALK ABOUT WISHY-WASHY.

ブク
BLUB

MAYBE I SHOULD'VE WAITED BEFORE PULLING THE TRIGGER...

ブク
BLUB

I'M GONNA HAVE TO SHAVE MY YOU-KNOW-WHAT IF I PLAN ON WEARING THOSE.

ブク
BLUB

ブク…

IF I WANT SOME-THING,

I HAVE TO TAKE IT!

NO, NO, NO! I PROMISED MYSELF I'D TRY MY BEST!

HH SPSH IV...

FANTASIZING WON'T GET ME ANYWHERE.

SHIMA!

KASAI!

GIMME A BREAK.

THE HERO RETURNS!

YOU'RE CLEAR TO COME BACK TO SCHOOL?

FUJII!

HEY.

LONG TIME NO SEE.

YEAH, AS LONG AS I DON'T EXERT MYSELF.

GUESS THAT MEANS NO CALIS-THENICS FOR A WHILE.

UM... FUJII-KUN.

CONGRATS ON GET-TING OUT OF THE HOSPITAL.

HEY, SERIZAWA. THANKS!

SORRY I HAVEN'T BEEN MUCH HELP WITH THE SCRIPT, HANA-SEMPAI.

DON'T SWEAT IT! HEALTH COMES FIRST.

ARE YOU BACK ON REGULAR FOOD AGAIN?

MMM. NOT QUITE.

I'M SUPPOSED TO STICK TO STUFF THAT'S EASY TO DIGEST FOR A WHILE.

OH...

THAT JELLY YOU BROUGHT ME WAS REALLY GOOD.

IT WAS A GODSEND WHEN THEY HAD ME ON LIQUIDS.

HUH?

OH, REALLY? I'M GLAD YOU LIKED IT...

HUH? NAH, THAT'S OKAY.

DON'T GO OUT OF YOUR WAY FOR ME.

I-IF YOU WANT, I CAN MAKE SOME-THING FOR YOU!

I KNOW SOME GOOD, LIGHT RECI-PES!

OH, YEAH? WELL, IN THAT CASE, SURE.

FEEL FREE TO DUMP ANY LEFT-OVERS ON ME.

I-IT'S NO TROUBLE, REALLY.

YOU SEE, UM...I'VE BEEN SUPER INTO COOK-ING LATELY, BUT I KEEP MAKING MY MOM MAD BECAUSE I ALWAYS END UP MAKING TOO MUCH.

SO, I'D ACTUALLY APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD TAKE SOME OFF MY HANDS...

REAL-LY?!

OKAY, I'LL BRING SOME OVER SOME-TIME!

THE NEXT DAY OFF

HAIR, CHECK. FOOD, CHECK. SCENTED LOTION, CHECK.

NOW TO JUST FLASH HIM THE PERFECT SMILE!

TNK カン

IS SHE VISITING SOME-ONE?

HAVEN'T SEEN HER AROUND HERE BEFORE.

TNK カン

SHE'S SURE DRESSED UP...

TNK カン





SEE-THROUGH

PANTIES

DONG

HO

DING

HUH?

HERE I AM.

WHOA!

AWW.

I WANTED TO SURPRISE HIM, TOO.

IS HE OUT?!

YOU'RE KIDDING... I FIGURED HE'D BE AT HOME, SINCE HE JUST GOT OUT OF THE HOSPITAL.

SHIRT: ONE GOOD DEED A DAY

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

THOUGHT SO! I CAUGHT THE FRESHMEN PRODUCTION A WHILE BACK!

HEY, AREN'T YOU FROM FORESTER?

HM?

WELL, NOW WHAT?

'SUP?

HERE TO SEE FUJII?

IT MUST BE CHILLY STANDING OUT HERE IN A DRESS.

WHAT?

YOU SHOULD WAIT INSIDE THEN.

HUH? UMM. SOME-THING LIKE THAT...

THE NEXT SHOW'S DURING THE MEIJI U SCHOOL FESTIVAL, RIGHT?

ARE YOU HERE TO TALK TO FUJII ABOUT IT?

CHACK カチャ

COME ON IN.

一日

ドス FMP

ドス FMP

ドス FMP

ドンッ THUD

RATL ガタ

RATL ガタッ

ガラララ SHRRR

JUST TELL HIM THE GENTLEMAN NEXT DOOR LET YOU IN!

B-

BUT...

WAIT...THE UNITS ARE CONNECTED?!

SHUF よじ

SHUF よじ

GOOD LUCK ON THE PLAY!

NAH, BUT ME AND FUJII ARE PRETTY TIGHT. WE OPEN OUR HEARTS *AND* OUR HOMES TO EACH OTHER.

トス FUMP...

UGH... I'M SO NERVOUS, I FEEL LIKE I COULD BOLT OUT THE DOOR ANY SECOND.

SO, THIS IS WHAT A BACHELOR PAD IS LIKE.

LOOK AT ALL THESE BOOKS ...

HE MUST REALLY LOVE READING AND WRITING.

BACK THEN, I DIDN'T KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT HIM,

BUT I...

I CAN'T STAND...

...YOUR ATTITUDE!

GOD, I USED TO BE SO NASTY.

TNK

TNK

TNK

TNK

DIDN'T YOU PUT IT IN YOUR BACK POCKET?

IS HE BACK?!

LES-SEE.

KEY, KEY...

ER...

OH... BINGO.

YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T DO THAT. WHAT IF IT FALLS OUT WHEN YOU SIT DOWN?

BLOOD SHED

AND WHAT'S WITH THE FOOD?

HOW'D YOU GET IN?

HUH? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

UH-OH! AT THIS RATE...

THAT VOICE ...!

HIS GIRL-FRIEND'S WITH HIM?!

THE BALCONY? NO, THAT WON'T WORK...

I KNOW! THE BED!

I HAVE TO HIDE, QUICK!

JOLT ビクッ

JINGLE チャラ…

AAH!

THERE'S NO ROOM UNDER-NEATH!

CLICK カシーン ヤーッ

TCHK カリ チャ

TCHK カリ チャ

CLATR カチャ

CHACK カリ チャ

HEY, NATSUO.

IT FEELS LIKE I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE IN FOREVER.

SINCE BEFORE I GOT STABBED ?

IT HASN'T BEEN *THAT* LONG.

CAN WE SIT DOWN ?

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANNA TALK TO YOU ABOUT.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?!

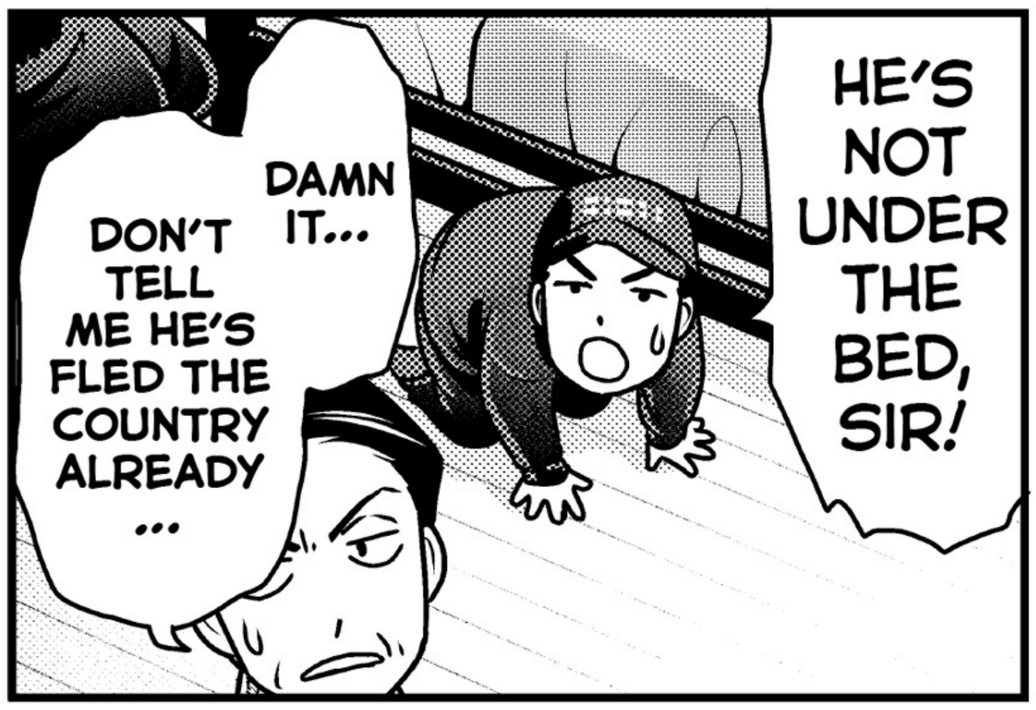
OHH, GOD!

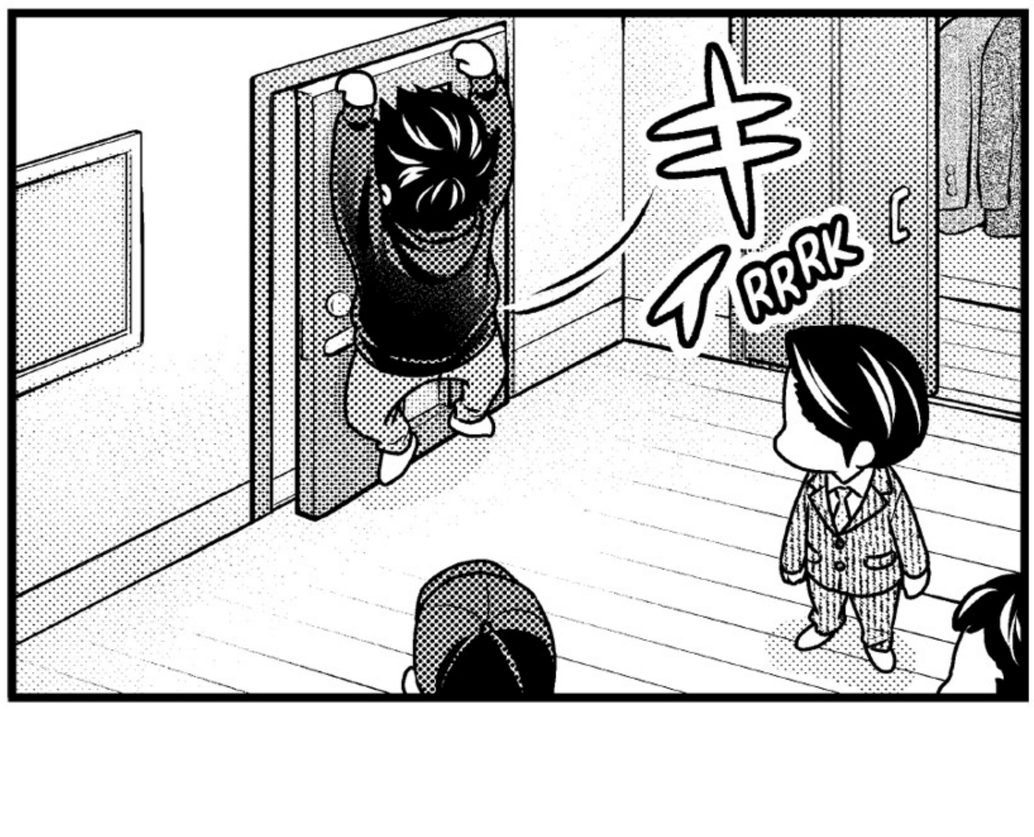
DG 4-PANEL THEATER

ESCAPE?

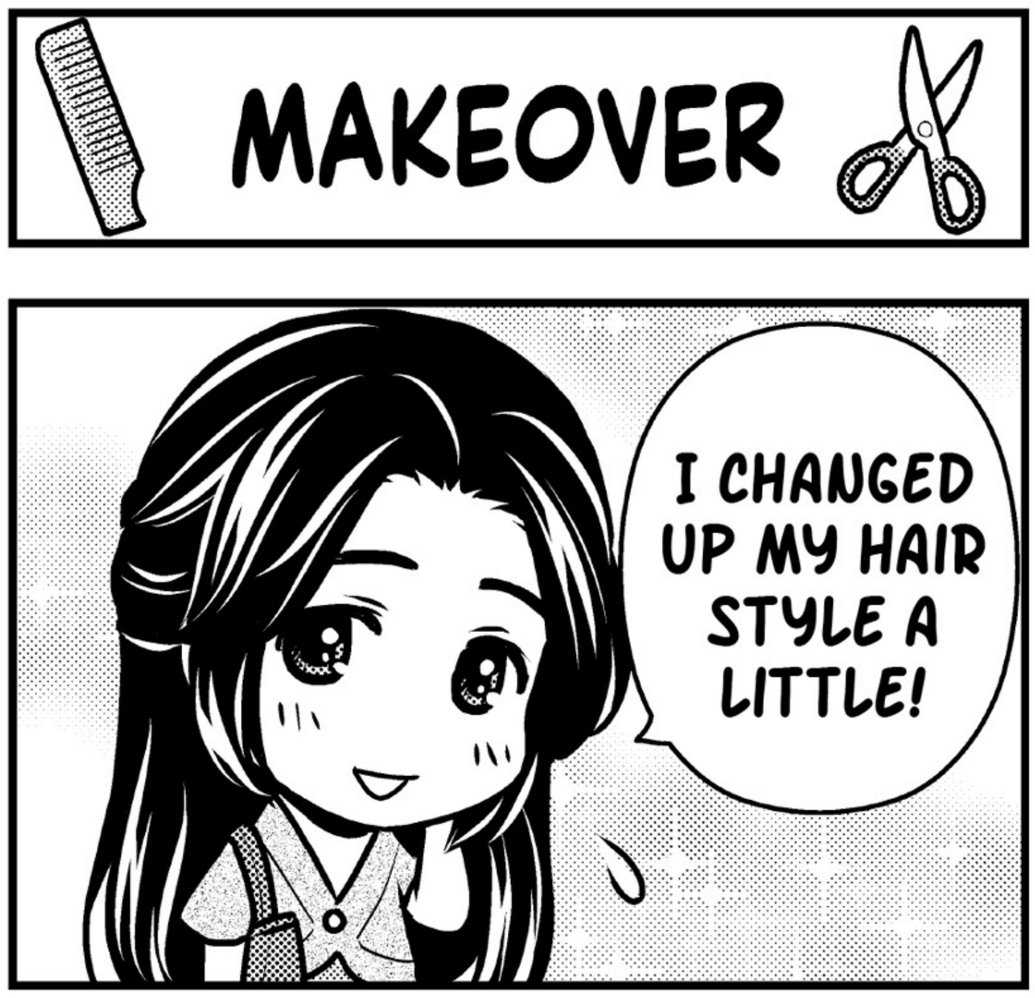




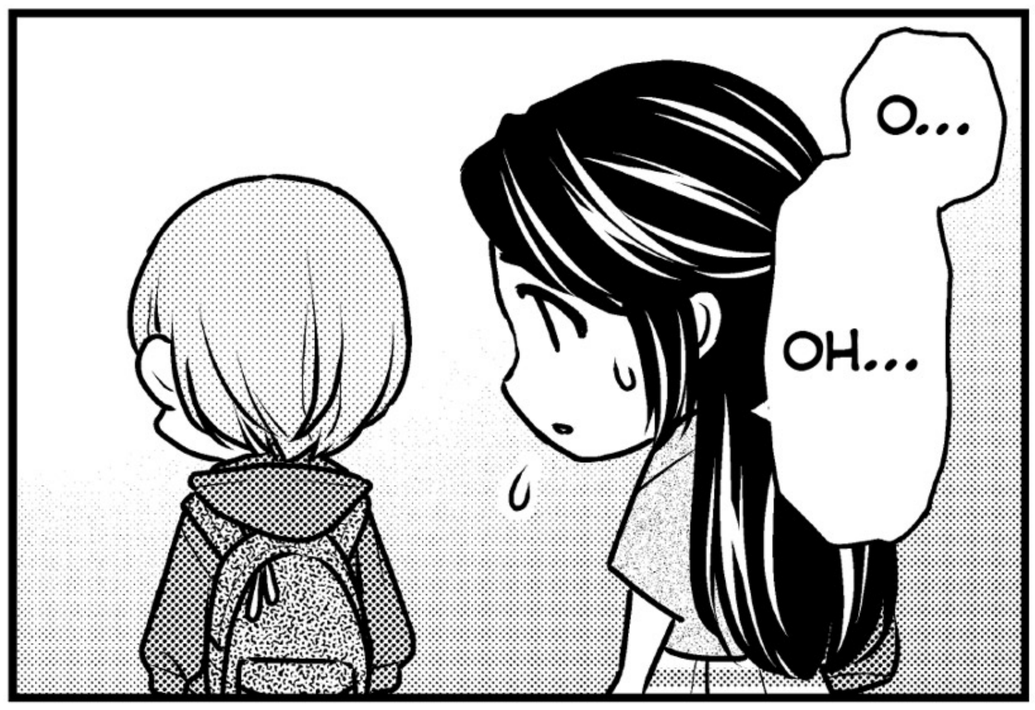


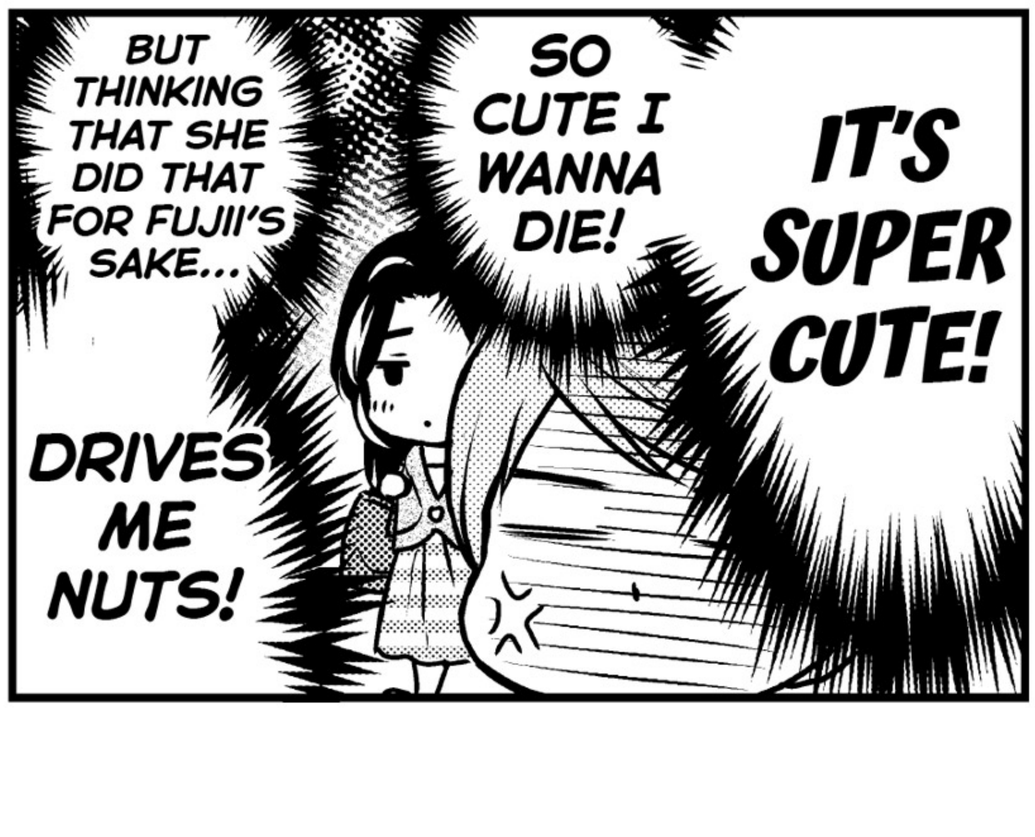


MAKEOVER



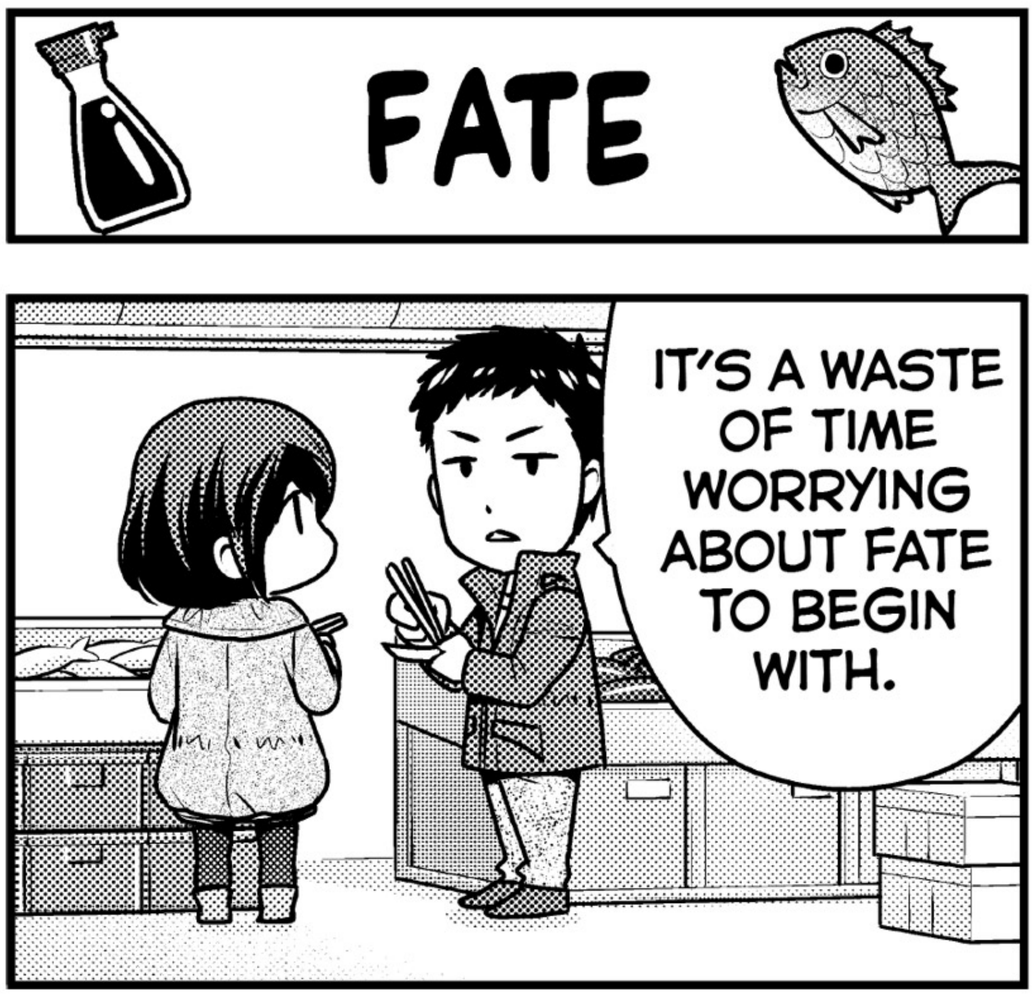






DG 4-PANEL THEATER

FATE



REQUEST



* A 1983 FILM IN WHICH A MAN CARRIES HIS MOTHER UP A MOUNTAIN ON HIS BACK.

Domestic Girlfriend 20

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